

Cascades East Transit – Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2017

COIC offices in Bend
334 NE Hawthorne
1:30 to 3:30 pm

Attendees: Jordan Ohlde, Casey Bergh, Richard Ross, Sara Russel, Josh

COIC Staff: Dylan Corbin, Michelle Rhoads, Derek Hofbauer

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm.
A quorum was not present during this meeting.

1. Welcome and introductions

Meeting attendees and staff made introductions at the beginning of the meeting and were asked by Chair Ross to mention a word that comes to mind when you describe a vision for transit. Attendees mentioned the following words: More Buses, Frequency, Accessibility, Transformative, Connected, and Inclusive.

2. Move Bend meeting update

Move Bend informs people in Bend about transportation options for the future of the City. The group is bringing an expert speaker series to Bend. Their main goal is to improve all modes of transportation and make them more efficient. Education, Engagement, and Encouragement are a primary focus of the organization's mission. The next coalition meeting will be held at OSU-Cascades in March.

3. CET low-floor bus update

The Bend Bulletin wrote a nice piece about CET's low floor buses. These buses have been placed on routes 7, 10, and 11 to help improve route efficiency. Mr. Ross indicated this is a good service for everyone, not just riders. There is less traffic build up with these buses because wheelchair boardings are easier and take less time. The new buses also offer a more dignified public transit system to people who are disabled.

4. 2018 CET Route and Schedule Changes

Mr. Hofbauer indicated that Minor route changes were made to Routes 11, 24, 26, and 22. Route 21 was eliminated, as that service was consolidated onto Route 22. Ms. Rhodes mentioned that a robust public outreach process was developed prior to garner public comments prior to making the changes. New changes were announced on January 2nd (and also in the prior week) via a KVTZ news article and also through website and social media communications. Mr. Ohlde talked about security issues at Hawthorne Station. Chair Ross asked when Hawthorne Station hours are staffed. CET staff will follow up with the security team and report back to the committee next month and also the hours of service the security

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guards are operating. Ms. Rhoads indicated that staffing resources are limited due to budget concerns. CET is looking at new ways to provide resources for staffing and security.

5. HB 2017 Statewide Transportation Investment Fund Rules Advisory Committee update

Mr. Hofbauer sits on the rulemaking committee as a representative for Transportation Options Group of Oregon, a non-profit group that promotes travel options across Oregon. Funding projections have not yet been determined but the funding is expected to be available to Qualifying Entities in early 2019. A main focus of the bill is to provide transit to low-income households. It was also noted that intercity transit has the potential to increase service to Hawthorne Station.

6. FTA Triennial Review

Ms. Rhoads gave a preview from the FTA workshop CET staff attended last week in Portland. CET will provide documentation regarding all CET services, including Paratransit Services and CET Community Connectors services. At the end of May 2018, the FTA comes on site to look at the facility and the buses. They will examine how CET reaches out to people with disabilities, seniors, and diverse groups. Ms. Rhoads indicated this is an opportunity to learn something new and apply that knowledge going forward.

7. E-Fare update

Mr. Hofbauer gave an update on the timeline of the rollout and also offered RPTAC members an opportunity to test the system during the soft rollout. Mr. Bergh mentioned that OSU-Cascades is excited about this opportunity and their students will be in a test group. Mr. Ohlde asked if CET staff will have meetings with Full Access DHS regarding electronic fare systems. Mr. Ross asked if the cards have expiration dates on them. Mr. Hofbauer will bring that information back to the committee during the next meeting. Mr. Corbin said the card reader will work on all the buses, including Community Connectors. Chair Ross asked if there is any incentive for using the card versus a paper product. Ms. Rhoads mentioned CET has an existing fare policy and won't change the fare structure. Convenience to customers is a main benefit for adopting an E-fare system. Customers can also save money by getting a full month (30 day) pass if they buy a pass during the middle of the month. This will allow maximum value for the customer.

8. Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) update

Mr. Corbin provided an update on the FLAP project. CET received grant funding to conduct a study to improving transit access to Deschutes National Forest. CET hired LSC Transportation Consultants to carry out the work. Some identified corridors include Skyliner Road, US 20 (to Hoodoo Ski Resort), Cascades Lakes Highway, and Warm Springs to Mt. Hood. Chair Ross asked if the potentially awarded grant will pay for services. Mr. Corbin mentioned that this pays for the services. Much of the original grant went into funding Route 18, which is the Mt. Bachelor service. Mr. Corbin has previously worked on projects in Utah that access the Canyonlands.

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9. Bend Open Streets update

Mr. Corbin provided an update that the 2018 routes won't go through Hawthorne Station. Two routes are in the old Bend neighborhood and the other is in SE Bend during the Fall of 2018.

10. ODOT Grants

Ms. Rhoads provided an update on the first round of grants. There is \$1.7 million dollars available statewide for enhanced mobility, which is designated for rural areas.

The first grant application will be developed for perseveration dollars for maintenance and to enhance safety and security with the radio system. A second grant application will be developed to ask for funding for additional security services at Hawthorne Station and the Redmond Hub. The next grant applications will be for ADA stop announcement equipment, which will be used for Bend fixed route service. A grant for funding automated passenger count information will also be submitted by CET, which will help with CET service planning efforts.

Mr. Ross had positive experiences using some of these automated stop information technologies on TriMet services. It is also valuable for people using the system who don't know where the stops are located and also for first time riders. There are many benefits to providing this technology.

11. Next steps and future meeting schedules

The next RPTAC meeting will be held at COIC offices at Hawthorne Station on February 21, 2018. Mr. Ross asked if we could meet less frequently. CET staff has developed a survey that will be sent to RPTAC members to gauge availability of meeting times and general interest in attending meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32