

Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee and CET Transit Master Plan Project Steering
Committee



Wednesday, February 13

3 pm to 4:30 pm

COIC offices in Bend
334 NE Hawthorne Ave.

MEETING MINUTES



Meeting Attendees:

Susie Wright – Kittelson
Miranda Barrus – Kittelson
Kim Curley – Commute Options
Pat Hanenkrat –Jefferson County
Theresa Conley – ODOT
Sara Russell – Citizen
Anne Marland – Age Friendly Sisters
Nick Snead –City of Madras
Morgan Greenwood –City of Madras
Richard Ross – RPTAC Chair
Tyler Deke – Bend MPO
Brooke Eldridge – Abilitree
Deborah McMahon – City of Redmond
Josh Smith – City of Prineville (phone)
Patrick Davenport – City of Sisters (phone)
Ellis Kurzman – Citizen
Rondo – Citizen

COIC/CET Staff:

Michelle Rhoads
Derek Hofbauer
Andrea Breault
Ashley Hooper
Rachel Zakem

Welcome and Introductions – Richard Ross, RPTAC Chair

RPTAC Meeting Minutes – Chair Ross asked the committee to review and approve the December 20th, 2018 meeting minutes. Minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

CET Transit Master Plan Project Introduction – Andrea Breault, CET

During the first round of open houses, CET staff asked the public to weigh in on vision, goals, and near-term priorities to inform Cascades East Transit (CET) 2040 Transit Master Plan. There was a virtual open house available online from January 7, 2019 through February 3, 2019, which gave the public an opportunity to participate in the public input process if unable to attend in person at the local open houses.

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Project Overview (schedule, procedures, Project Steering Committee (PSC) role, public involvement) – Susie Wright, Kittelson

Ms. Wright shared that the first two major products that were developed were a planning precedent memo (regional/local plans and regional vision/goals) and existing conditions memo (CET service area, demographic analysis, Transit Service Assessment, Transit Capital Assets Analysis, and COIC Transit Budget and Funding Source Analysis). The next phase of the project will focus on near-term priorities. She noted that it is not normal to look at near-term priorities first in a long-term planning process, but because of the STIF May 1 deadline, the project timeline needed to be altered. The next PSC meeting will be held on April 3 from 1:30-3:30 pm, where the group will discuss the near-term projects for STIF. An on-board survey will be conducted in the spring to collect ridership and demographic data. The Transit Master Plan will likely be completed for adoption in early 2020.

Local and regional Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) were established for the project. A Project Management Team (PMT) is leading the planning effort (CET, ODOT, and Kittelson). The Project Steering Committee comprises of a regional group that provides input on the Transit Master Plan. Ms. Wright encouraged committee members to submit their comments about policy and strategic direction at the meetings, so that they can be shared with the group as a whole. Technical input from committee members can be provided shortly after the meeting to the PMT. Ms. Wright added that it is important for committee members to review materials prior to the meeting.

Ms. Marland asked if there would be an online survey for the second round of community open houses, to which Ms. Wright said that there will be a new memo presented on the www.CETTransitPlan website for citizens to comment, but there will not be an official online survey during the second round.

Summary of Local and Online Open Houses – Andrea Breault, CET/Susie Wright, Kittelson

CET conducted six open house meetings across Central Oregon to cover the geographic areas outlined in the scope of work (Deschutes County, Jefferson County, Crook County, Redmond, Bend, and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs):

1. January 15, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at La Pine Public Library (16425 1st St., La Pine, OR 97739)
2. January 17, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Rodriguez Jefferson Library Annex, Upstairs Conference Room (134 SE E St., Madras, OR 97741)
3. January 22, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, Redmond City Hall, Room 208 (411 SW 9th St., Redmond, OR 97756)
4. January 23, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Warm Springs Community Center (2200 Hollywood Blvd., Warm Springs, OR 97761)
5. January 24, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Crook County Library, Broughton Room (175 NW Meadow Lakes Dr., Prineville, OR 97754)
6. January 29, 11:30 am to 6:30 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, Brooks Hall (469 NW Wall St., Bend, OR 97703)

227 virtual online surveys were completed, in addition to 51 paper surveys that were completed by open house participants. Zip code data revealed geographic coverage of survey input that was collected.

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All of the survey results that Ms. Wright presented is in aggregate form, but it is possible to breakdown the data into subgroups. For the “Goals” section of the survey, the most common goal priorities were to provide more transportation choices and reduce vehicular demand. For “Bend Service Priorities,” the most common responses were more frequent routes and additional services routes, followed closely by extended weekday hours. The strongest response for “Community Connector Service Priorities,” was providing local city circulators—closely followed by more frequent routes. For “Rider Experience Priorities,” the most common responses were improved shelters/bus stops, followed by rider experience. When considering the entire system (Dial-A-Ride, Fixed-Route, and Community Connectors), the most common response was more Community Connector service, followed by more service in Bend. Greenwood Avenue, South 3rd Street and North 3rd Street were the most common areas for enhancing existing services. Northeast Bend and St. Charles were both areas for which survey respondents noted they would like to see expanded service. The Redmond-Bend Community Connector route was chosen as the highest priority route to increase frequency. The Redmond-Bend Community Connector route was also noted as a high priority service for Saturdays and Sundays. When asked about local expanded service, Redmond yielded the highest survey results, followed by Bend and Prineville. Ms. McMahon asked why we cannot just use the overall data to pull out results about priorities, to which Ms. Wright said that it is important to look at responses from those people who are actually from a specific community rather than the data collected overall. This tactic avoids a “popularity contest” from the data and ensure local input is taken into consideration.

Ms. Curley asked what types of topics and questions CET ask the public during the second round of open house meetings. Ms. Wright responded that this outreach period will focus on near-term priority projects by providing a list of possible projects to implement over the next 1-3 years. Ms. McMahon asked about how input will be weighed for this process and what decision-making framework is being used (e.g. if you only have 2 responses from City X and 100 responses from City Z, how do you weigh the difference of responses). Ms. Wright responded that the local Technical Advisory Committees are meant to help guide the decision-making process and provide the local community perspective for the planning process. Ms. Conley added that adopted local plans need to be referenced in STIF projects need to be in adopted local plans. The deadline for the STIF application is May 1. Mr. Ross asked if there will be another survey to collect wider public input regarding proposed STIF projects. Ms. Wright answered that the public input strategy that will be utilized during the second round is focused on rider feedback on existing service through on-board surveys, which will be a statistically valid sample. Mr. Ross suggested finding business community partners to collect additional input on transportation needs for the region. Mr. Snead added that this survey is a good starting point for understanding for transportation needs of local municipalities with the addition of other public input strategies. Ms. Conley added that the final Transit Master Plan will have individual “chapters” that drill down priorities for each community. Mr. Kurzman asked about the types of advertising CET conducted to get the word out about the open houses. Mr. Hofbauer responded that CET used newspaper ads, social media, and flyers in buses/shelters/transit stations. Ms. Hooper added that a comprehensive list is included in the Public Outreach Summary.

Memo Overview – Susie Wright, Kittelson

The Planning Precedent Memo includes a draft vision statement and five goals (with additional objectives). Ms. Wright wanted to ensure that the PSC can agree on the vision and goals to help guide the planning process with a shared understanding. Ms. Marland asked if there was any input for shaping

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the goals to include subsidies to assist those on a fixed-income. Ms. Wright indicated this topic could be added into the goals.

Mr. Ross recommended that CET, the City of Bend, and the regional partners should consider implementing a more robust transit pass program (like in Boulder, CO) that supports transit passes that are subsidized for those with a low-income. Ms. Rhoads asked if CET's Group Pass program was added into the Existing Conditions Memo (Ms. Wright confirmed) and suggested that more goals be added regarding "one pass for all" coordination. Ms. Curley suggested that "transit options" in the goals be changed to "public transportation options" because "transit" is a word that the state is moving away from. The group approved the vision statements and goals after the suggested revisions.

STIF deadlines and Long-Term Plan – Andrea Breault, CET

Over the next funding biennium, there will be approximately \$4 million dollars allocated through STIF to the Central Oregon region. Ms. Breault explained that in addition to the Master Transit Plan process, COIC is administering the STIF process on behalf of the qualified entities (QEs): Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Ms. Breault added that the Master Transit Plan is long-term, but because of the upcoming STIF deadline on May 1, it is important that the STIF dollars are taken into account during the planning process. Ms. Rhoads added that the STIF prioritizes projects that impact low-income, people who are disabled, and seniors. An additional 1% of formula funds needs to be used for grades 9-12 student transportation.

Additionally, one representative from each QE STIF advisory committee will be designated to attend the Project Steering Committee, which has been combined with the already existing RPTAC. Mr. Snead expressed some concern regarding the burden of the payroll tax on employees and wants to make sure that STIF projects can ultimately improve transportation services. Mr. Hanenkraft asked about the role of PSC members and if they have voting power. Mr. Hofbauer explained that revised RPTAC bylaws will be adopted by the COIC board during the spring, which will be followed by an application and formal appointment process. Mr. Ross suggested that the meeting locations could rotate and include a tour to showcase local transportation options.

Public Comment

No public comments

Next Steps/Adjourn – Derek Hofbauer, COIC

The PMT will meet with local TACs in mid-March. Those meetings are being aligned with CET open houses. Local TAC meetings are scheduled as follows:

- March 11: La Pine TAC only (scheduling TBD)
- March 12: Sisters (1:30-3:00 pm)
- March 13: Madras (1:30-3:00 pm)
- March 14: Warm Springs (3-4:30 pm)
- March 19: Prineville (1:30-3:00 pm)
- March 20: Redmond (1:30-3:00 pm)
- March 21: Bend (1:30-3 pm)

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Round two open house events are scheduled as follows:

SISTERS: Tuesday, March 12 (3:30-6:30 pm) at the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Station, 301 South Elm St.

MADRAS: Wednesday, March 13 (3:30-6:30 pm) at the Rodriguez Jefferson Library Annex (134 SE E St.)

WARM SPRINGS: Thursday, March 14 (5:00-7:30 pm) at Warm Springs K-8 Academy (50 Chukar Rd.)

PRINEVILLE: Tuesday, March 19 (3:30-6:30 pm) at Crook County Fire and Rescue Department (500 NE Belknap St.)

REDMOND: Wednesday, March 20 (3:30-6:30 pm) at the Redmond Public Library (827 SW Deschutes Ave.)

BEND: Thursday, March 21 (3:30-7:00 pm) at the Trinity Episcopal Church, Brooks Hall (469 NW Wall St.)

The Next PSC meeting will be April 3 at the COIC Administrative Office from 1:30 - 3:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned.