



Wednesday, October 21
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Virtual Meeting



MEETING MINUTES

RPTAC Members Attending:

Richard Ross – Chair
Annie Marland
Zachary Bass
Kim Curley
Casey Bergh
Brooke Eldrige – Alternate
Denise LaBuda – Alternate
Jordan Ohlde
Cora Ives
Nicholas Snead
George Conway
Bob Bryant
James Halliday

Meeting Attendees:

Pat Stone
Gregory Bryant

COIC/CET Staff:

Tammy Baney
Derek Hofbauer
Andrea Breault
Ashley Hooper
Rachel Zakem

Welcome and Introductions - Richard Ross, RPTAC Chair

- Attendees made virtual introductions to the group.

Review and approval of 8/19 meeting minutes – Richard Ross, RPTAC Chair

- The 8/19 meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

Public Comment Period

- No public comments.

Overview of the Chair and Vice Chair committee member nominations and possible vote

- Richard Ross received two votes for Chair and Bob Bryant received one vote.
- Nicholas Snead received two votes for Vice Chair and Kim Curley received one vote.

- Chair Ross shared that he has served as Chair for the last 5 years, but he will no longer have the time to contribute to this role due to another obligation. He added that Mr. Bob Bryant has expressed interest in serving as Chair.
 - Chair Ross entertained a motion for Mr. Bob Bryant to serve as Chair and Mr. Snead to serve as Vice Chair with Ms. Curley to serve as Co-Vice Chair to support Mr. Snead
 - Ms. Ives made the motion, Mr. Ohlde seconded, and all approved for a combined motion.

Route 11 service change request and staff report - action item

- CET is proposing an adjustment to Bend’s Route 11 service starting January 4, 2021. The proposed change consists of eliminating the eastward turn off SW Century Drive onto SW Simpson Avenue.
- This service change will improve overall on-time performance for Route 11 and Route 7 due to interlining, as well as eliminate low ridership stops.
- Mr. Bergh asked for the specific data was utilized to make these determinations.
 - Ms. Zakem responded that she used ridership data from 2019 to avoid ridership information impacted by COVID-19.
- Mr. Ohlde motioned to accept the recommended service change, seconded by Mr. Bass, all approved.

STIF project updates:

- Route 31 summary report
 - During the public input process for CET’s 2040 Transit Master Plan, many community members emphasized the need to connect La Pine and Sunriver for access to employment opportunities.
 - Through a collaborative community effort, a summer shuttle service (Route 31) connecting La Pine and Sunriver was implemented between June 1 and September 7, 2020 to help fill existing transportation gaps and provide a free, reliable, and frequent transit service.
 - Although CET and many community partners promoted Route 31 through a variety of marketing strategies, the number of jobs typically available in Sunriver were significantly reduced due to COVID-19. This decrease in the overall employee base impacted ridership for the new La Pine-Sunriver route.
 - COVID-19 hindered the ability for staff to fully promote the new route and directly impacted overall ridership. A total of 298 rides were provided on Route 31 during the summer service period.
 - Mr. Bass asked how often the service operated.
 - Mr. Hofbauer responded that the service operated seven days a week.
 - Mr. Bass asked if the cost per ride metric was available because he is concerned by the low ridership numbers for this service.
 - Mr. Hofbauer responded that a final report is being developed and this figure would be shared with the committee during the December meeting.
- Schedule review for the Deschutes County STIF Project #17 Increased Frequency along Bend's Transit Corridors

- The increased frequency will operate along Bend’s north-south corridor (3rd Street) and along the east-west corridor (Greenwood Avenue and Newport Avenue).
- Two additional buses will be added to increase frequency along these major corridors to serve four CET routes.
- Project #17 is a big step toward high capacity transit, which increases reliability and convenience for riders.
- The anticipated implementation of this project is summer 2021.
- After discussion of the proposed frequent schedules, no further comments were reported by committee members.
- City of Redmond’s Fixed-Route Feasibility Study
 - The goal of the Redmond Fixed-Route Feasibility Study is to evaluate the community need and next steps for fixed-route service implementation in the City of Redmond.
 - A deliverable of the study is the development of a practical and sustainable plan for how and when to transition from the current demand-response system to full fixed-route bus service (or a hybrid system).
 - CET is supporting this project through public outreach and is engaging community stakeholders to participate in a focus group.
 - This project has a quick timeline and will help inform future Deschutes County STIF projects.
 - Ms. Ives expressed interest in participating in Redmond-related transit discussions moving forward.
- NE and SE Bend preliminary route scenarios
 - CET developed preliminary route scenarios for the Northeast and Southeast Bend routes. These scenarios reflect feedback received during CET’s 2040 Transit Master Plan, input from CET operators, as well as City of Bend staff. These routes will fill current gaps in CET’s transportation service in Bend.
 - Ms. Baney asked if it is too late for the public to exercise influence over the planning process for these routes.
 - Mr. Hofbauer responded that stakeholders and members of the public can weigh in on these routes via a series of neighborhood association meetings, a survey process, and direct outreach to transit riders that will take place during in November and December.
 - Dr. Conway asked if the Northeast Scenario #1 (independent route) was longer in distance than the Northeast Scenario #2.
 - Ms. Zakem responded that the independent route is shorter in distance.
- Vanpool Pilot Project
 - Ms. Curley shared that Commute Options is currently offering a \$500 monthly subsidy to start a vanpool with trips either originating or ending in Deschutes County.
 - Current outreach efforts have focused on people who are already working together that are coming from the same general area to go to work (20 miles or more).
 - A challenge to this project is that many employers are not encouraging shared rides because of COVID-19.
 - Mr. Bergh asked if funding for this project will expire.
 - Ms. Curley responded that this is a pilot project with a timeline of June 2021; however, the STIF funding can be extended.
 - Dr. Conway expressed concern about proper COVID-19 protocols being followed in a van. He does not recommend this project moving forward; however, he shared that a

cohort approach with employees who work closely together throughout the day could be used to implement this type of project.

- Ms. Baney agreed with Dr. Conway and echoed his public health concerns from an employer standpoint.
- STIF Advisory Committee Meetings schedule
 - Crook
 - Tuesday, December 1 from 2 – 3pm
 - Wednesday, January 6 from 1 – 2:30pm
 - Deschutes
 - Tuesday, December 8 from 3:30 – 5pm
 - Thursday, January 7 from 3 – 4:30pm
 - Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
 - Tuesday, September 29 from 1 – 2pm
 - Tuesday, January 5 from 11:30am – 1pm
 - Jefferson
 - Thursday, December 3 from 2 – 3pm
 - Friday, January 8 from 2 – 3:30pm

CET program updates

- Service enhancements:
 - Ms. Breault shared that the next RPTAC meeting will focus on rural projects.
 - Enhanced Sisters Dial-A-Ride (DAR) concept
 - CET has a \$30,000 STIF project for enhanced DAR services in Sisters. The current DAR service in Sisters does not have high ridership because the municipal boundaries are limited. CET is proposing a service from Sisters to Bend one day a week because most Sisters residents need to access services in Bend.
 - Ms. LaBuda asked how rides would be scheduled.
 - Ms. Breault responded that the process would be the same as current DAR services. A customer would call CET to set up a pick up and return ride.
 - Mr. Bryant asked if there is an option to promote shared rides for people with similar destinations.
 - Ms. Breault responded that CET is hoping to procure technology services next year that will allow rides to be scheduled with an app, similar to Uber or Lyft.
 - Ms. Breault asked the committee if there is a particular day or time of day that Sisters residents need to get to Bend.
 - Ms. Marland responded that she will assist Ms. Breault with specifics.
 - Medical/Shopper Shuttles
 - CET has started initial conversations with community partners in Crook and Jefferson to determine the type of local services that best serve the needs of the community.
 - Crooked River Ranch
 - CET is re-engaging community stakeholders in Crooked River Ranch to determine which type of transit service and frequency would best meet the needs of the community.
- Facilities Committee

- CET/COIC is in the process of forming a facilities committee, which will assess existing and future property locations and recommend actions based on community needs.
- The committee will be responsible for the following:
 - Provide input on facility needs, including mobility hubs, concepts, and property locations
 - Help inform 2021-2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) project applications
 - Make recommendations to the RPTAC
- Mr. Bass requested a more specific breakdown of costs for STIF projects and the remaining funds.
 - Ms. Breault responded that CET receives funding through many grant sources. Moving forward, CET will highlight the specific funding source during updates to the committee.
 - Mr. Hofbauer noted that planning and implementation updates for all STIF projects are located at <https://cascadeseasttransit.com/about/stif-progress/>
- Visionary Statement
 - A sub-committee will be formed to draft a visionary statement, which will focus on long-term transportation goals for the next 20 to 30 years.
 - Mr. Hofbauer shared that the goal is to develop a draft statement during the winter to share at the COIC board meeting in the spring.
 - The following committee members volunteered to work on the visionary statement sub-committee:
 - Denise LaBuda
 - Richard Ross
 - Kim Curley
 - Bob Bryant
 - Although Nicholas Snead was no longer on the call, Richard Ross would like to extend an invitation for him to serve on the sub-committee.

Adjourn