

**REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15 FROM 1:30-2:30 PM

Staff

Andrea Breault
Derek Hofbauer
Rachel Zakem

Committee Members

Kim Curley
Annie Marland
Tobi Marx
Casey Bergh
Denise LaBuda
George Conway
James Halliday
Richard Ross

Members of the Public

Jennifer Sellers (ODOT)
Indigo Larson (Commute Options)

Public comment

- Mr. Ohlde stated that it is really difficult for people with disabilities to use the current bus schedule. Saturday schedules are not good and he would like to see a change back to regular schedules soon.

Review and approval of 4/20/22 meeting minutes

- Meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

CET service and planning updates

- Ridership is up roughly 13% from this past fall for Bend fixed routes and Community Connectors services, which is likely due to high gas prices
- The planned return of Saturday service was suspended due to the lack of drivers
- Route 31 (La Pine to Sunriver) was suspended after two weeks of service due to driver shortages and low ridership.
- Ride the River and Lava Butte services started on Saturday 6/18.
- CET will not operate the Cascade Lakes Summer Shuttle service this year, but are hopeful to run that service during the summer of 2023
- Ridership for the Mt. Bachelor 2021-2022 winter service increased 45% compared to the 2020-2021 season. Overall, ridership is still down 45% compared to the 2018-2019 season, which is likely a result of COVID

- 34 ADA-compliant bus stops will be constructed in July and August for the new Northeast Bend, Southeast Bend, and Redmond routes.
- Ms. La Buda asked which services CET anticipates bringing back first once enough drivers are hired. Ms. Breault responded that prioritization is on rural side for CET. MTM Transit is in charge of Bend service hiring.
- Ms. Marland asked about ridership on the Sisters Shopper Shuttle. She heard the route takes a long time if the shuttle needs to go to multiple stores. Mr. Hofbauer responded we have one regular user and occasionally have others join on the route on Thursdays.
- Dr. Conway asked how widely we advertise and if buses can take bicycles. He suggested CET should display the bicycle racks on promotional materials. Mr. Hofbauer responded that all of our buses have bike racks and noted CET will incorporate more “bus on bike” photos in our marketing materials
- Ms. Breault shared CET’s Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation program is gaining in popularity, with talks about expanding our jurisdiction further south. This is a need that is being met specifically for veterans needing health care services and CET is one of the top performing agencies in the state with respect to this program.
- Dr. Conway shared the contact Steven Moore with the VA for future coordination with the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Program

Funding Updates

- \$20,836,928 in ODOT discretionary awards were allocated statewide across multiple funding sources (Surface Transportation Block Grant & FTA)
- CET received the following funding awards from ODOT:
 - CET Vehicle replacement: \$2,291,704
 - Hawthorne Station Parking Lot Redesign: \$600,000
 - CET Asset Management/Work Order Software: \$144,000
 - CET Enhanced Mobility Management: \$224,000
 - CET Hawthorne Station On-Site Security: \$75,000 (\$325,000 requested)
 - CET Security Technology and Equipment: \$160,000
- ODOT’s Innovative Mobility Program (IMP)
 - Jennifer Sellers from ODOT presented information regarding a new Innovative Mobility Program
 - The Oregon Transportation Commission directed start-up of Innovative Mobility Program in order to:
 - Provide grants to community-based organizations and local agencies that make it easier for underserved groups to walk, roll, share rides, and take transit
 - Enhance sustainable and equitable mobility
 - Build capacity and remove barriers to access
 - A three-year program includes the following:
 - Funding: \$10 M federal IIJA and \$10 M State
 - 50% via competitive discretionary grants (\$10 M)

- 50% via targeted ODOT convened and partner delivered programs (\$10 M)
- \$5,000 micro-grants available within 2 months
- o The Engagement Plan includes the following:
 - May-August 2022
 - Outreach to community-based orgs (both directly and through agencies with existing relationships)
 - 1:1 meetings, attendance at existing events (e.g. Tribal Transit Round-Table), mini survey
- o RPTAC’s potential role:
 - Help ODOT identify organizations with an interest in participating
 - Highlight successful grant programs in the equity/climate justice space we could learn from
 - Advise on how to make the grants and contracting process as accessible as possible (grant criteria, RFP design, publicizing the opportunity)
 - Participate in grant evaluation/project selection

Commute Options Vanpool Program

- Commute Options manages a successful vanpool program to help people get to and from work without driving alone
- Vanpool funding for the program management and subsidies comes from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund
- Nessler Ammunition has a vanpool running between La Pine and Bend
- A vanpool also operates between Redmond to Black Butte Ranch
- The Forest Service operated a van from north of Bend to Crescent
- Brasada Ranch will likely start at least 4 vans in the near future. They are working on multiple routes to serve all shifts. 1/3 of staff live in Redmond, 1/3 in Bend, 1/3 in Prineville.
- Mr. Bergh asked if they were considering electric vehicles for the fleet. Ms. Curley mentioned that they have been pressing Enterprise, the fleet supplier, to do so

City of Bend Neighborhood Mobility Points and electric bikeshare rollout

- The City of Bend recently launched a bikeshare pilot program on June 3rd using electric assist dockless E-bikes
- Ridership numbers thus far show the bikeshare program has been successful
- 18 neighborhood mobility points are designated as pick-up and drop-off areas; 10 bikes are located at Hawthorne Station
- The City is tracking data to see where and how customers are using the bikes
- Dr. Conway asked about helmet requirements. Mr. Marx shared that there is no helmet requirement in the state of Oregon.
- Dr. Conway shared that it would be prudent and appropriate to promote that people bring their own helmets.