

**REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022 FROM 1:30-3:00 PM

Staff

Andrea Breault
Derek Hofbauer
Rachel Zakem
Laura Scully
Tammy Baney

Committee Members

Kim Curley
Brian Potwin
Annie Marland
Casey Bergh
Denise LaBuda
James Halliday
Richard Ross
Zach Bass

Guests

Andrea Napoli

Public comment

- None

Review and approval of 10/17/22 meeting minutes

- Meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

2022-2023 Winter Mt. Bachelor fare discussion

- CET is seeking RPTAC's approval to recommend this proposed fare increase to the COIC Board of Directors during its November 3 meeting.
- Staff conducted outreach to partner organizations, hotels, and other in October and November.
- Proposed fare increase for the 2022/2023 season to \$7 one way and \$12 round trip.
- Fares for the 2021/2022 season were \$6 one way and \$10 round trip.
- Ms. Breault indicated the fare increase proposal is due to limited Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding to help support the service via operations and new fleet vehicles.
- Mr. Potwin asked about current ridership and how this price increase might affect ridership, to which Ms. Breault stated ridership increased since last year due to the removal of covid restrictions. She also responded CET is working with Mount Bachelor's

HR department to provide opportunities like free-shuttle weekend days and other activities to promote the shuttle.

- Ms. Marland asked about any discussion of service from Sisters to Hoodoo
- Ms. Labuda asked who would this impact affect the most as far as affordability?
- Ms. Breault responded that the younger demographic and tourists are willing to pay a higher fare to take public transit for recreation purposes.
- Ms Napoli asked has there been any discussion of providing a season pass for MTB?
- Ms. Breault, historically there was a season pass, MTB was not seeing a return/financial benefit on keeping this pass
- Ms Breault indicated fares cover less than 10% of the operating cost that they pay for
- Mr. Halliday asked if there are any employees who ride the bus, to which Ms. Breault indicated a good portion of the schedule is to serve employees and they ride for free.
- Mr. Hofbauer entertain the motion to increase these fares.
- Ms. Curley made the motion to approve and Ms. Marland seconded. The committee voted unanimously to recommend an increase in Mt. Bachelor fares to the COIC Board of Directors.

Bend Mobility Hub Feasibility Study Adoption into CET’s Transit Master Plan

- Mr. Hofbauer provided an overview of the project and noted the findings were discussed during the August RPTAC meeting.
- The Feasibility Study has been completed and all final project materials are posted on CET’s website at www.cascadeseasttransit.com/about/bend-mobility-hub-feasibility-study.
- CET is seeking RPTAC’s recommendation to the COIC Board of Directors for the adoption of the Bend Mobility Hub Feasibility Study into CET’s 2040 Transit Master Plan.
- Mr. Potwin moved to recommend to the COIC Board the adoption of the Bend Mobility Hub Feasibility Study into CET’s 2040 Transit Master Plan. Mr. Bass seconded and the motion carried with unanimous approval from the committee.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) updates

- Mr. Hofbauer provided a background of the STIF process and indicated COIC is a resource for which staff help the Qualified Entities manage their STIF programs.
- COIC administers the STIF programs on behalf of Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- Subrecipient Provider Application notification requests to be released this week by COIC and each Qualified Entity and are due November 8, 2022.
- Information about the STIF Advisory Committee meetings and project solicitations can be accessed on COIC’s website at www.COIC.org
- The Special Transportation Fund (STF) program has now merged with STIF. COIC worked with each QE to revise advisory committee bylaws.

- Ms. Marland asked who is the STIF advisory committee representing Sisters, to which Mr. Hofbauer noted Paul Bertagna, City of Sisters Public Works Director is the City of Sisters representative on the Deschutes County STIF advisory committee.

CAD/AVL Project

- Ms. Breault explained the definition of CAD/AVL (Computer Aided Dispatch/Automated Vehicle Locator)
- The CAD/AVL provides more effective services, resulting in fewer drivers needed to operate DAR
- Ms. Breault noted STIF applications must cite a project or reference within an existing, approved plan.

CET Ridership Updates

- Total ridership in August 2022 increased 28% compared to last year.
- Bend fixed route ridership increased 23%; however, schedules are still not as frequent as pre-covid levels due to driver shortages.
- Dial-A-Ride ridership increased 32%.
- Community Connector increased 24% last year and ridership is back to pre-pandemic levels.
- Ms. Marland noted that Laird Superfoods in Bend is closing, which could affect ridership.
- Ms. LaBuda asked if there are major barriers to hiring drivers, to which Ms. Breault responded the Union has agreed to an increase in pay for MTM drivers to make wages commensurate with CET drivers. Additionally, MTM's General Manager increased frequency of routes in Bend during the summer, which improved ridership.
- Ms. Zakem described services in Sisters, including Dial-A-Ride and the Sisters to Bend Shopper Shuttle.
- Mr. Hofbauer noted bus stops are nearly completed in Bend and Redmond for future routes.
- Ms. Marland asked if a second bus shelter will be constructed in Sisters, to which Ms. Zakem noted a new concrete pad was recently constructed and will be used in the near future.
- Mr. Potwin asked about the bus stop design and construction process, to which Mr. Hofbauer noted there is a significant design effort that entails surveying, purchasing right of way, ADA compliance, and materials specifications. He also mentioned the Redmond Service is a deviated route, allowing it to pick up and drop-off passengers between stops. Consumer Cellular is excited to have a bus stop near their main facility in Redmond.

CET Outreach updates

- CET conducted three Haunted Bus Stop events at the downtown Library, OSU-Cascades, and COCC on Halloween to promote services and hand out candy and swag items to riders.
- Laura Scully is actively promoting CET’s rural services by attending community meetings and promoting recently constructed bus stops.
- Upcoming outreach events include the following:
 - La Pine Resource Fair
 - Madras and Warm Spring Outreach
 - Crooked River Ranch
- The December 21 RPTAC will likely be cancelled due to the Holiday season.

Roundtable

- Ms. Scully noted she is excited to work at CET and just graduated from University of Oregon and grew up in Portland. She is the R.A.R.E program member and promoting rural services.
- Mr. Potwin noted the Commute Options vanpool program is performing well, as well as the GetThere rewards program. They are also hiring Walking School Bus Supervisors.
- Ms. Marland noted the importance of conducting Safe Routes to School again in Sisters. Stakeholders are implementing the visioning process – which is mostly transportation focused.
- Ms. La Buda asked about next steps after the mobility hub integration into the Transit Master Plan, to which Ms. Breault noted CET is working on an agreement with the City of Bend on some possible site locations, as well as a pilot project. Ms. La Buda mentioned some decisions for Greenwood/Franklin and Hawthorne overpasses that will help improve bike/ped connectivity across the parkway.
- Mr. Halliday noted a skatepark is getting built and the park will be covered. They completed two walkways along Hwy 26 that connects to the casino as part of a safety project.