REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023

Staff
Andrea Breault
Derek Hofbauer
Rachel Zakem
Laura Scully
Eric Lint

Committee Members
Brian Potwin
Annie Marland
Casey Bergh
James Halliday
Jordan Ohlde
Denise Labuda
Richard Ross

Guests
Tobi Marx
Indigo Larson
Andrea Napoli
Jovi Arrellano

Public comment

- Ms. Labuda noted an airport shuttle pilot project could be successful, as many individuals regularly make the trip and would benefit from an additional transportation option. She also indicated a preference for the Ride Bend service to be continued in the future.
- Ms. Breault mentioned the Ride Bend shuttle is referenced in CET's 2040 Transit Master Plan update and noted CET is more likely to implement exploratory pilot pilots once both Bend and regional services are back to pre-covid frequencies. On May 1st CET is increasing frequency for Bend Fixed Routes due to successful driver recruitment and hiring by MTM Transit.
- Mr. Marx spoke asked about carbon reduction funds that could be used for Ride Bend, which could potentially fund a 1- month microtransit service, with a possible nexus with affordable housing initiate es and the neighborhood mobility points.

Review and approval of 2/16/23 meeting minutes

- Minutes were unanimously approved by the committee

Commute Options Vanpool Program Update

- Commute options is providing 100% vanpools in three counties. There are currently 12 vans on the road, and this is one of the fastest growing vanpool programs in Oregon. The program is expanding and new contracts are being established with employers and organizations. Employees are very happy about the program, as are employers.
- La Pine to Nosler and Warm Springs to Ski Bowl are two major success stories.
- A preference is to have at least 2 volunteer drivers per van. It is a set route, dictated by the individuals' needs. The employment piece is embedded into the vanpool model.

City of Bend Bikeshare

- Mr. Marx provided a full-year view of the bikeshare program. Bend has a total of 250 Bird electric bikes, equating to 25,727 rides, which is 172 rides per bike. Riders traveled 34,567 miles, and the average ride was 1.34 miles. The bikes saved 3.62 metric tons of CO2 and proved to be a great solution for first/last mile connections. Over 11% of rides used for daily commutes. The program is sending rules for riding to all users. One goal of the Neighborhood Mobility Point Program to create parking destination points near transit shelters.
- The City of Bend budgeted for mobility projects and is installing 200 new bike racks.
- Mr. Ross asked about pedestrian networks and lack of sidewalks and listing those as a priority before looking at bringing scooters into the mix.
- Mr. Lint brought up the city's wayfinding project that is underway.

CET Service and Planning Updates

- The Madras Dial-A-Ride boundary was expanded on April 1 to allow increased access for Madras residents to connect to destinations using public transportation.
- CET implemented a successful detour for Routes 5,6 and 7 that was communicated with passengers two months in advance via ride-alongs, flyers, and website and social media posts.
- The Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved $300,000 to kickstart a bus stop improvement project in Bend that will include new bus shelters.
- CET and Mt. Bachelor are promoting free shuttles from April 19-23 for the RendezVan Festival
- The Hawthorne Station parking lot redesign construction will begin later this year.
- A successful all-staff meeting on was held on March 4 to review policies and procedures and get feedback from drivers and managers.
- Transit Driver Appreciation Day events on March 18. Staff brought cookies and coffee to rural and Bend drivers that morning and posted photos of drivers across CET's social media platforms.

- Staff tabled during the Breaking Barriers Conference hosted by Central Oregon Disability Support Network
- Rural outreach was conducted by Mr. Hofbauer and Ms. Scully in Sisters, La Pine and Madras, and Warm Springs
- Ms. Breault presented Mobility Hub Study findings at Oregon Active Transportation Summit alongside the consultant team.

CET Outreach and Technology Initiatives

- The rollout of CET's free public WiFi and Passio Go! app occurred in March. The information was shared with riders via ride-alongs, notices, flyers, and website and social media posts.
- Service Alerts are now posted through Passio Go! instead of opt-in texts.
- Announcements were also made for Bus Buzz and SMS text alerts for Dial-A-Ride services, which is a new way for clients to get updates on when the van will arrive at their destination.
- CET published a Request for Proposals for a new surveillance system, which will improve safety and efficiency.

2023Summer Recreation Services

- The Mt. Bachelor shuttle service ended May 28; Ride the River and Lava Butte services commence June 17.
- The new Bend to Mt. Bachelor summer service is planned for Thursday-Sunday between 10 am and 6 pm from June 21 through Labor Day.
- Committee member input for service planning, events, and outreach is appreciated.

Advisory Committee Recruitment Update

- Applications are due in Fall of 2023.
- Staff posted application materials at Hawthorne Station and the Redmond Transit Hub, regional libraries and community centers, as well as inside buses.
- A flyer with a link to application (in both English and Spanish) is posted CETS's website and social media platforms
- Seeking members from Bend, La Pine & Metolius/Culver/Terrebonne

Meeting Adjourned