Cascades East Transit
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
334 NE Hawthorne Ave, Bend, OR 97701
cascadeseasttransit.com

Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee (RPTAC)
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24 @ 1:30-3:00pm
Hawthorne Station Conference Room

Attendees

Committee members and guests:

Bob Bryant
Jordan Ohlde
Denise La Buda
Tobi Marx
Richard Ross
Brian Potwin
Fatima Taha
Jovi Arellano
Andrea Napoli
Lohn Livingston
Josh Smith
Tasha Brackin
Brandon Safely

CET Staff:
Derek Hofbauer
Eric Lint
Andrea Breault

Public comment

- No public comment

Approval of minutes from meeting on October 18, 2023

Mr. Ohlde motioned, Mr. Potwin seconded, motion carried

Transit Services Report • Eric Lint (15 minutes)

- Bend fixed route service updates
    - Encouraging news for the new RT 9 (up 50% since launch), as well as other fixed routes which are up 40% increase
    - Routes 1 and 3 frequency temporarily reduced due to construction projects
        - Potential to loop Route 3 into NW crossing to serve restaurant workers
- Mt Bachelor winter shuttle

  - Ridership is consistent with last season with 22,000 rides in December and January
  - Marketing materials were provided to visitor centers, hotels, businesses, etc. in early winter to promote the service
  - CET received $1.8 million in FLAP funding for new Mt. Bachelor vehicles
  - KTVZ conducted an interview with staff and riders that aired on the evening news
- Vanpool program
  - Commute with Enterprise visited Central Oregon for a strategy meeting
  - 34 vanpools now on the road!
  - 26 additional vans on the road equates to an additional $1.1 million in funding
  - Working to increase usage and get the vans going
  - New CET graphics on vanpool vehicles
- Upcoming Crooked River Ranch service assessment
  - CET is proposing offering the service two days per week (instead of five) to maximize route productivity and efficiency, as well as address low ridership
  - CET will meet with the CRR Board of Directors this Spring to discuss the modification and receive feedback

New Bus Graphic Renderings

- Committee members weighed in on draft graphics renderings
- New, charcoal grey Gillig buses will operate on Routes 1, 4, 3 and 7
- The top preference was for the Driving Force mockup (see image below)

Driving Force mockup
Mockup prepared by wrap vendor at Derek's request.

- The second preference was for the retro stripes mockup (see image below)

Retro stripes
Maximizes longevity by placing design elements between panels, avoids windows.
Small design flourish near front shows mountain silhouette, Mirror Pond.

Project Updates • Eric Lint & Derek Hofbauer (15 minutes)

- Mobility hub outreach updates:
  - Troy Field (Downtown Bend) mobility hub will create a sense of place for visitors and residents and make transportation connections easier
  - The temporary hub will be constructed in the parking lot behind troy field using a temporary use permit from the City of Bend
  - CET conducted outreach to businesses and neighborhood associations and will participate during the Environmental Center's Earth Day Fair
  - Bend South assessment occurred this winter to determine feasibility/support for potentially developing a mobility hub near the Stillwater Crossing Apartments on SW Atwood and SW Ponderosa, just off Hwy 97 between Murphy Rd and Baker Rd.
- Security camera project update
  - CET is selecting another vendor, with cameras anticipated to be installed this summer/fall
- Transit asset management software
  - Provides efficiencies and potential synergy with City of Redmond to use the same software system
- Hawthorne Station Safety Improvement Project outreach and communications
  - Construction begins late March
  - End result is a safer and modern-looking transit hub
  - Robust outreach and communications efforts with neighbors
  - Working with the City of Bend to create better bike and pedestrian access-wayfinding is part of this project
  - Mr. Marx noted the City of Bend is wrapping up the 2-year bikeshare demonstration project and then presenting to City Council with recommendations

Opportunity Foundation (OFCO) Program Update – Brandon Safely (10 minutes)

- The program utilizes $120,000 of Deschutes County STIF funds
- Mr. Safely described what OFCO does in the community with job coaching services. They also employe 200 staff and support workers. They are the second biggest non-profit besides St. Charles
- Large geography and they try to find the right people to fit the right employer
- Individuals need to be transported to and from classes
- OFCO also do volunteer work – Senior Center is right near their building
- Next Deschutes County STIF committee meeting, OFCO will frame up how the funds are being used
- The Human Services Coordinated Plan is referenced in the STIF Plan for the OFCO program

ODOT and MPO Updates (10 minutes)

- ODOT updates – Jovi Arellano
  - Bus and fleet replacement projects can be funded by competitive discretionary grants geared toward lower emission vehicles
  - Senior and disabled funding is another grant pot that is available

    - Regional outlook – an inaugural transit agency meeting for entities that receive STIF funding till take place on March 5 in Madras with a virtual option
- MPO updates – Andrea Napoli
    - The MPO is halfway through the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and will refine project lists in Plan to match available funding
    - Two safety grants with ODOT underway
    - Federal Safe Streets for All Grant to update the Transportation Safety Action Plan
    - TBEST model – MPO is working with the consultant to update the model; Mr. Lint explained TBEST connects with our GIS to collect census data

Statewide Transit Legislation • Derek Hofbauer (10 minutes)

- OTA supports SB 1553 making it a misdemeanor to use illicit drugs on public transit
    - Read TriMet's overview of the legislation here.
- Preparing for a transportation package in 2025 – state budget and new legislation
- Ms. Breault noted CET was invited to participate in EV bus forum with other transit agencies. Looking to achieve shared procurements and contracts for these purchases.
- Mr. Lint provided an update on the larger transportation package

RPTAC Member Recruitment • Derek Hofbauer (5 minutes)

- Deadline to apply extended to late May
- Confirmed scoring committee members and timeline

Meeting adjourns

Next RPTAC meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2024

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