Cascades East Transit
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
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cascadeseasttransit.com

Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee (RPTAC)

Wednesday, April 17 @ 1:30-3:00pm
Hawthorne Station Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

RPTAC members present:

- Bob Bryant
- Richard Ross
- Casey Bergh
- Jordan Ohlde

RPTAC guests:

- Fatima Weir
- John Livingston
- Tobi Marx
- Jovi Arellano
- Russ Walls
- Andrea Napoli

CET staff:

- Andrea Breault
- Eric Lint
- Derek Hofbauer

Public comment

- **No public comment**

Approval of minutes from meeting on February 21, 2024

Mr. Ohlde approved; Ms. Breault seconded; motion carried

Service Change Roundup

- Redmond Flex Routes begin June 3
    - Flex service has a ¼ mile area around the route that allows for service deviations
    - Flex service will not replace public Dial-A-Ride

    - New driver shift bids begins on June 3
    - Service runs Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:30 pm
    - Two routes A (airport) and B (hospital)
    - Key stops established; deviations allow bus to access neighborhoods within a ¼ mile
    - Discussion with Redmond City Council on 4/23
    - Mr. Ohlde enquired about potential access to the Deschutes County Fairgrounds
    - Ms. Breault working with the operations team to make sure bus rules are being followed and asked the committee what defines success for the route
- Most Community Connector routes add frequency June 3 on morning and mid-day runs
- Recreational Services begin in mid-June
    - June 15 Lava Butte
    - June 19 Transit to Trails using a new trailer that holds 20 bikes
    - June 22 Ride the River
- Route 3: Now serving Northwest Crossing
    - Service request from restaurant workers
- Route 20: New stop at the Shelter Service Center and Jefferson County Library
- Route 25: Crooked River Ranch service modification
    - Mr. Hofbauer presented to the CRR Board on April 1, 2024
    - Service modification in place for RT 25 to operate Tuesdays and Fridays only, which allows CET to continue serving the Ranch

Project Updates

- Bus Stop Improvement Project begins this summer with outcomes anticipated this fall
- Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Program grant update
    - Jefferson County received an ODOT grant for $230,000 for CET to provide transportation services to veterans across the country
    - Ms. Breault indicated a need for sustainable, long-term funding
- Bike trailer arriving early May for Transit to Trails service
    - Three runs per day on Weds-Sundays with earlier starting times
    - Ms. Breault indicted federal FLAP funding expires in 2026
- ODOT Innovative Mobility Program Microgrant
    - City of Bend applying for two projects @ $7,500 each
    - CET considering applying for Redmond service enhancements

STIF Advisory Committee Meetings

- Meetings scheduled in mid-May with the four Qualified Entities. Second round of meetings this year will occur in October
- Topics include service updates and project reports for Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties and Warm Springs
- Project ranking occurs in October ahead of STIF plan submission to ODOT in January 2025

ODOT Updates

- Call for stories to promote transit accomplishments
- Upcoming grant opportunities and timelines
- Mid-cycle projects submitted in March
- Discretionary projects open in June
- Oregon Public Transit Conference Oct. 27-30

Bend MPO Updates

- Travel demand modeling update
    - Final refinements taking place to the project list and updating cost estimates
    - Models are better at predicting mode increases
    - In 2019, 0.18 trips were used on transit. There would be a 500% increase if the full project list is implemented
    - Ms. Breault asked if climate friendly area legislation is a factor; that will be explored in the next round
    - % of households and jobs within ¼ mile of transit

City of Bend Updates

- Bikeshare program update
    - City extended program to 2024 in partnership with Bird bikes
    - Bird has a new corporate entity
    - First year 25K rides, next year 15K rides (issues with fleet management)
    - Goal this year is to get to 30K rides in Bend
    - Planning to engage Commute Options re: community E-bike education
    - City will take more active role managing the system – real time data that will provide insights
    - Creating a bike rack program for the city.
    - Staff will recommend to City Council the continuation of the mobility program using micromobility options
    - Mr. Bryant asked about permanent locations for parking bikes. Fixed locations are targeted for deployment. Education is focused on where/how customers leave bikes to ensure ADA access is not blocked.
    - Mr. Lint asked if there has been success deploying bikes at apartment complexes or parks. People who have the app are able to make suggestions.
    - Mr. Bryant asked if there is an effort to deploy bikes at mobility hubs. A quick build approach uses mobility points. Coordination continues to take place between the city and CET. Potential to use Troy Field parking as a free space if they are using other modes of transportation
    - Ms. Napoli – asked if there are Bird nests (groups of shared E-bikes) on private property (City, BPRD). Conversations are happening with new developments. Only one or two bikes were used at Stillwater Crossing Apartments.

RPTAC Member Recruitment • Derek Hofbauer (5 minutes)

RPTAC New Member Discussion and Orientation

- COIC Board to appoint RPTAC members June 6
- Applications under review by RPTAC Scoring Subcommittee
- New members seated during June 12 RPTAC meeting
- CET may host a new member orientation in July or August
- Would a half-day tour be helpful, or would you prefer orientation topics to be covered briefly over the course of several meetings?
- What topics do you think new members on RPTAC need to know? What can make RPTAC better going forward?
- Feedback from committee members:
    - Guest speakers such as Central Oregon Breeze, Pacific Crest Bus Lines would be interesting
    - Be clear on what type of input the group is seeking
    - Provide bylaws for review
    - Field trip or ½ day orientation
    - For new members, an opportunity to touch on a mission statement recommended by the group and how we are staying connected with expectations

RPTAC Next Meeting

- Next meeting's regularly scheduled date conflicts with Juneteenth holiday
- Seeking committee feedback on alternate date - committee members unanimously selected June 12 from 1:30-3 pm at Hawthorne Station

RPTAC Member Report Outs

Good of the order

- Mr. Lint noted four stops will be closed on RT 4 due to construction; however, that brings the route back to 30-minute frequency
- Stops are closed from Butler Market to Nells Anderson going Northbound
- Mr. Ohlde noted folks going to Bethlehem Inn are getting off on the wrong side of the street. Perhaps the driver can inform riders to stay on the route and get off on the return side. Mr. Ohlde asked how someone in a wheelchair could get to ODOT; use the Burger King stop.
- Mr. Bergh inquired about staffing levels, to which Mr. Lint responded COIC HR staff is in the process of posting job positions

Meeting adjourns at 3:30