

**Rogue Valley Transportation District
The Special Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
Zoom Video Conference, August 19, 2020 3:00 pm**

Attended:

Julie Ormand
Sue Slack
George Adams
Silvia Ceron
Louise Shawkat
Bill Littlefield 3:27-4:09

Staff:

Tim Fountain, Translink Manager
Paige West, Senior Planner
Stacy Chaplin, Recording Secretary

Absent:

None

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 3:13 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call conducted; 6 members were in attendance.

3. Review and Approve June 17, 2020 Minutes

Sue Slack Motioned and Julie Ormand 2nd, All in favor, motion passed.

4. RVTD Presentation

Tim presented and shared his computer screen. Programs, Services & Partnerships that RVTD handles:

Valley Lift - for those with disabilities who can't use the fixed route bus. Operates $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from bus stops. \$4 and requires an application.

DD53 – Free for those with developmental disabilities going to/from work sites. Individuals often work with companies such as Living Opportunities and Pathways. Extended the boundary to 1.5 miles to serve more individuals. We don't manage the eligibility, referrals are sent to us.

Plus – Free Non-Medical transportation. Medicaid clients who are able to use NEMT for Medical rides. Has 1.5 Mile boundary.

Rogue Valley Connector – Trail, Shady Cove, Eagle Point: Service has ended due to low ridership.

Ashland Connector – Newest of Services started December 2019. Operates within city limits of Ashland only. Specialized software allows to schedule same day or on demand rides. \$2 per trip. Quick, efficient and works well. Funded completely with STIF funds, not STF or 5310 funds.

Medicaid: Through Translink provide Medicaid transportation for local CCO & Open Card individuals. For Jackson Care Connect serving 48,000 people. Cascade Health Alliance contracted through Skylinks serving 10,000. Shares building space with RVTD.

Service Animal Friendly Transit (SAF-T) Asked 2 service animal questions in advance, allowing participants to board without delays or inquiries. Participation is 100% voluntary. Mirroring Lane Transits Program. Program is ready to go but has not started yet. Will include photo ID card. No Cost.

Veterans Transportation: 8-10 years ago, had a lot of participation. Program operating when special funding is received. RVTD Go Vets Program more recently got funding but hasn't had a lot of participation.

Bill asked when the connector will start up. Tim explained that the service has stopped. There is hope that there will be some kind of service in the future but not sure what that looks like. Too many unknowns at this point.

5. Funding Applications Process Overview

Paige shared her screen showing the solicitation timeline. ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division had brief meeting last week to discuss the grant solicitation cycle. Applications not available yet. Listed by month and type of funding due. STIF new funding source since July 2019. Moving into a cycle where will have both sources available. STIF first one up and is a competitive source. They had 4 million available last biennium. RVTD received 2 awards, one for the Ashland Connector and one for the new Eagle Point Route 63. Not planning on submitting a new one for this biennium. Cannot renew for another cycle. STIF Formula Funds based on population in Jackson County. Approximate annual allocation \$2.4-\$3 million when economy is good. Won't know until October but will most likely will be a lot less. Portion of those projects will be sustained because they were put in place with the STIF funding in the current biennium and want to keep it going. Some training happens late oct. Applications aren't posted for the funding that STAC allocates until the 2nd week of November. 5310 Elderly & Disabled is Funding for replacement vehicles, contracted services, capital contracts or Mobility Management. STF more for CVN, Living Opportunities. Those applications will be available mid-November. Will give everyone 3 weeks to a month to get submitted to us before Christmas. Paige is Eyeing 5304 planning grant to update United We Ride Plan. It needs to be updated every 3 years and is due. RVTD Can freshen it up in house or could apply for funds for someone else to do. STIF plans due February 2021 but STAC not Required to recommend on STIF plans. March 1, 2021 applications that apply to

STAC are Due to ODOT. Between the 1st and 2nd week and applications are submitted to RVTD before submitting to ODOT, will have to: Send the information to STAC members, have 1-2 meetings with presentations, then evaluate and score those. Then they go to the Board of Directors for the February Meeting so that it can get submitted to ODOT by March 1st. Will Ask to have a Meeting first part of Jan then also First part of Feb to be determined based on Tim's Application schedule. Don't need to meet for Applications until January. Paige sent the solicitation timeline link in the zoom chat box.

Tim shared his screen and stated he was trying to come up with a way to do rankings easily. Created ranking sheet. Allows to rank individual projects on computer. They can be ranked through the form and has guided questions. Members really liked the idea. Bill will need to have the form mailed to him. Tim Emailed ranking form to members.

George recommended to Paige that the definitions be spelled out for each funding source. Paige will list out definitions of each funding source.

6. RVTD COVID-19 Update

Slight increase in ridership from May to June up 30%. June to July up 10%. Still using a shuttle when needed. Still using face masks and social distancing. SOU & RCC will not be in session usually 10%-15% of ridership. Harry and David ramping up and expecting a stellar season. Making sure shuttles available for employees. Started safe to ride campaign letting riders know that we are doing the right things to keep everyone safe. Louise asked how the drivers are doing. Paige stated drivers are doing very well and we've hired 7 new drivers since Pandemic started.

7. Valley Lift COVID-19 Update

Tim shared screen showing visual impact of COVID Ridership. See decline of rides in March. Doing daily temperature checks of all drivers and cleaning vans. Hand sanitizer and masks are still being offered and available. Screening passengers when scheduling rides. If someone is unable to wear a mask on the fixed-route due to a disability they can request a reasonable accommodation and use Valley Lift instead. No one has requested it yet. Starting to see increases in ridership. Only using 2/3 of our fleet. Not sharing rides.

7. Next STAC Meeting Date – October 21, 2020

8. Agenda Items for next meeting

Living Opportunities Presentation

Review & finalize the Ranking sheet – Tim emailed it out

STIF & STF Funding Estimates Available

9. Other Business / Comments, Questions, Concerns

George asked if we had additional Presentations from RVTD and Living Opportunities. RVTD presenting today and Living Opportunities will present in October.

George shared his screen showing SHIP Together Oregon. Creating zoning laws and Transportation was part of the program. In September they're going to put up new website to show what the state is doing. Shared another screen showing Finalizing Activities and Measures that they had decided on showing that Transit was included. Louise asked George to send that to her.

Bill asked – if Valley lift will be serving Shady Cove. Tim stated Eagle Point is as far as it goes.

George has concern for Tim. Dispatch Radios are up really loud. He asks for them to be turned down. Tim will check with Paratransit to be considerate with the volume.

Paige suggested that everyone review the United We Ride Plan before the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Adams adjourned the meeting at 4:28 pm

Stacy Chaplin,
Recording Secretary
