

**Rogue Valley Transportation District
The Special Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
Zoom Video Conference, May 20, 2020 3:00 pm**

Attended:

Julie Ormand
Sue Slack (left 4:00 pm)
George Adams
Silvia Ceron
Louise Shawkat (joined 3:06)
Bill Littlefield (couldn't announce himself)

Staff:

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

Absent:

None

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 3:02 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call conducted; 6 members were in attendance.

3. Review and Approve February 19, 2020 Minutes

Sue Slack Motioned and Julie Ormand 2nd, All in favor, motion passed with correction to Item 6 Piqued instead of peaked

4. RVTD's Response to COVID-19

Paige – Starting to stabilize. Generally getting better direction from the state since May 15th. The Governor provided specific guidelines on how transportation should be done. Up until then used common sense and OSHA guidelines. None of our procedures needed to change. When COVID started, drivers being able to work, started seeing a driver shortage. All available full-time drivers were working OT and PT drivers were working FT. At that point decided to reduce service due to staffing. Early in March started doing a daily ridership report. Ridership plummeted with the stay at home orders. Ridership at 60% less than we were in February. Still transporting about 2,000

trips per day. Asked those who only needed essential trips to travel with us. Several other Transit agencies had to shut down. Looked at routes with low ridership to choose what to reduce or suspend. Put in shuttles in case someone got left behind they'd get picked up within several min.

Drivers Safeguards: Cleaning and insuring high touch surfaces cleaned every 2 hours. Plexiglass barriers made and installed. We have maintained keeping our fare by putting up barriers and drivers never touch the fare. Cash sits for 5 days so those counting it are at less at risk. New standing line behind the driver to 6 feet. All employees and passengers have to wear face masks. Have distributed thousands of masks. Deboarding uses the rear door with the exception of wheelchair users. Have segregated off seats to allow max capacity. Once seats full the driver is denying service. Driver has option to make exceptions. Only ran into a few instances where had to deny due to no face mask. Staff has temperature checks when reporting for duty. Looking at data daily. Starting Friday allowing 3-foot distancing on buses. Good indicator that we can add back Saturday service, expanding hours back out, and put suspended routes back, however it may not happen for a few weeks. Not going to do any service enhancements at this time. ODOT going to give quarterly projection in mid-June for the July-Sept STIF funds. They'll use 2008 information and likely it will not be enough to sustain if it continues to be that low. Hoping by end of year, things will resume with higher employment. All other service additions are paused. Out of 19 projects completed 8-9 of them but at this time not introducing new service. Received funding from Care package, if unemployment continues that can be used. Most transit agencies run on sales tax. Transit agencies across the country cutting service dramatically. Because of property tax and payroll tax we have the care package to help fill the gap. State hasn't come out with forecast yet. Buses being cleaned every 2 hours, not cleaning shelters.

5. Valley Lift's Response to COVID-19

Tim – Following the lead of RVTD, changes in hours, days and reduced routes for the

most part. Because of population that we serve we tried to continue our services. We sought out masks, sanitizer, used distancing and locked down facility. Reduced need for photo ID's as long as application was complete. Stopped sharing rides. Number of trips we did dropped approx. 60%. Flexed our call center hours so that only ½ were in the office at a time. Provided masks and hand sanitizer to both passengers and employees. Still not allowing individuals in our bldg. Partnered with Food N Friends to fill gaps with their volunteers. Deliver 800-900 meals through Jackson Co. Should be winding down at the end of May. Also coordinated with CVN. Their volunteers are high risk. 10-15 passengers transported so that they didn't have gaps in their service. Going to continue through June. Sue stated nothing but compliments from CVN at a recent meeting that she attended. Tim emailed fliers to everyone showing those partnerships. In EP continued to do Dialysis trips only. In Shady Cove we delivered frozen meals. Worked with John at Food and Friends.

Cleaning vehicles several times a day, practicing social distancing as much as possible. Offering Reusable masks to passengers. Purchased hand sanitizer from distillery out of Eugene for both Drivers and Passengers. The district is getting dispensers but not sure when they will be installed on Valley Lift. Louise asked about what made us go to the distillery. Tim- wanted to buy from a local Oregon based company and that was one way we could do that.

George asked Tim and Paige, with restrictions of Masks required, if someone had low blood sugar and diabetic how would they eat with a mask on. Can there be a procedure? Tim stated If someone had a disability that prevents them from using a mask the driver would question but then allow client to do those things if needed. Silvia stated If someone has a condition, they are going to want to wear the mask, but they would also know themselves. There are allowances for those if the mask is making it difficult to breath. We did talk about some kind of temporary disability status for vulnerable users to use VL during COVID to set them up on VL. Paige stated if this gets to a point where it's going to be long term, we will bring it back to STAC. We're accommodating 95% of people. Paige is hoping another transit agency will figure this

out so we can adopt what they're doing. George would like to remind RVTB to think about it ahead of time. Paige stated we have not had many people who are disabled riding. They have just now started using transit. George asked members to be thinking about this topic.

6. Future Meetings Via Video Conference

George asked how long this might be going on. Tim stated we will be doing video meetings for a while. Most can participate through video or phone. Might be good to get a camera if he has access to internet.

George asked if the general public has access. Mail Tribune on Friday's list monthly meetings. Louise stated something could go there, and it's free. George wants to know if we could let them know more about what we do. Matt explained how someone from the public can view the meeting. George asked if it could be posted on our website. Tim will look into it.

7. Future Presentations by STF Recipients

Tim stated that at last meeting we would have STF funding recipients. He sent an email letting them know we would probably do a video meeting to tell us the things that CVN, Living Opps, and United We Ride. George added the computer screen can be shared in Zoom. 20 min for each presentation. Discussion of one or two per meeting. Julie would like to see one per meeting and Louise suggested giving them a time line.

8. Next STAC Meeting Date – June 17, 2020

9. Agenda Items for next meeting

Continued COVID-19 follow-up

Funding applications process information

Presentations

Ridership numbers for Valley Lift and RVTB for COVID comparisons.

10. Other Business / Comments, Questions, Concerns

George suggested to have funding information emailed to everyone ahead of time so that members can review before. Tim stated they will have plenty of time to review. George suggested a second meeting during the month that funding is due. End of current funding cycle is Jun 30th. Grants due in Jan or Feb. Next round may have deadline sooner for 5310 but there is nothing available yet. Once we have a timeline, we can build around that. There will be less funding. To give best educated opinion on allocating funding. Would allow for more time for others to speak. George stated given several weeks to review before scheduling another meeting. Funding Applications aren't even available until after our next meeting.

George suggested to Paige that on Front Street to put up a sign or recording that they need to have a mask on. Paige stated We have a how to ride transit during COVID poster. Not sure what kind of flexibility on exterior announcements but will look into it. George asked Silvia and Julie if they've heard of any complaints during this time. Both stated they have not.

George asked for members feedback as to how they liked the Zoom meeting. Members stated they liked it and its working good.

Suspending Service Animal Pilot right now. It's not a pressing program to roll out right away. Feels now isn't a good time.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Adams adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm

Stacy Chaplin,
Recording Secretary