

**Rogue Valley Transportation District
The Special Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
TransLink, February 19, 2020**

Attended:

George Adams
Julie Ormand
Sue Slack
Louise Shawkat (left at 3:55pm)

Staff:

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

Absent:

Silvia Ceron
Bill Littlefield

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call conducted; 4 members were in attendance.

3. Review and Approve December 18, 2019 Minutes

Sue Slack Motioned and Louise Shawkat 2nd, All in favor, motion passed (to include notes on Pam's resignation and Bill's comments.)

4. Ridership Updates

Paige passed out a summarized report that showed current route ridership. New routes are doing pretty good but the first year is usually pretty slow for ridership on new routes. Valley lift has only increased 1.3%.

5. SAF-T Program Update

Tim –Hope of rolling out within a month. LTD, NY have similar programs, they've had a lot of fraud, our program is a little different. It will require passengers to provide documentation of their disability to sign up. Website info, fliers, are all ready to go just

the last push driver/staff training. Advertising will be fliers inside of buses and word of mouth. If there is stagnation will look at way to increase program. George suggested once program gets going to do a survey to see if program is working. Tim stated they would poll riders as well as staff.

6. Committee Direction Discussion

Tim – What are the things we really want to see/work on; What are the things that have piqued interest; Are there things that you'd like plan ahead and review; Is there an underserved population that you're aware of; Are there opportunities to identify and include those who may not have transportation? George suggested brochures to advertise and offer free rides. George would like to suggest advertising by brochures to increase STAC membership. Sue asked what happens if STAC didn't exist. In a time of great flux – if consolidation, would this be better with more info. Tim states they would have to modify/update expectations at that point. Would we even exist if the funding changes or what would happen? Paige stated each entity would have a choice to consolidate or not. Tim stated there would still be a need for the accessible side of RVTD. Duplication Services –fill gaps. Bring in United Way, Living Opps, RSV for updates once a year to give an update and presentation. Tim has already started requesting additional information from them such as complaints. Paige would like to follow up on what happens to the RVTD vans when the non-profits get them. United We Ride plan is to make sure RVTD is not considered the ONLY transportation providers. Tim stated he would reach out to get information on where vans have gone and find out how they are being used. George suggested to extend the Valley Lift service boundary to serve more of the underserved. Tim stated we go above and beyond. Valley Lift is available district wide. There is new software available to use new data to identify outreach areas.

7. Next STAC Meeting Date – April 15, 2020

8. Agenda Items for next meeting

Information on Valley Lift Vans – Where/How Non-Profits are using them

Presentation by one agency: Living Opps, CVN, RSV

9. Other Business / Comments, Questions, Concerns

Paige – STF/STIF consolidation that is being considered at the state level. The legislature had a requirement when they passed the new STIF funding, that they wanted ODOT to look at the Special Transportation Funding. The Legislature has passed 2 funding sources going to one division. ODOT asked that the 2 sources be combined into one. The other consideration was, over the last several biennium's, the State's General Fund has been supporting the State's Transportation dollars by 10 million dollars per biennium. State said, since you have access to STIF funding they are going to start using the 10 million dollars for other things. They created a Consolidation Advisory Committee that Julie Brown has been working on. There are going to be some winners and some losers. All part of a bill and it may not pass. They've created 2 recommendations – Concept A and Concept B which allocates the funding differently. STF typically in the past has been based on older adults and disabled population. In Jackson County we've been between 12%-15% which is higher than the State average. There has been talk about making it all payroll, but the rural areas would not have as much and most likely a higher ratio of older adults and disabled population. Those areas would be the losers in that scenario. Willamette Valley would be the winners. STIF funding is Payroll Tax and will always stay the same. In either case we lose some STF dollars. It could be anywhere from \$300k-\$500k per biennium which is about a 30% cut. STIF in this concept is supposed to back fill the loss. Paige stated that some areas decided to use their current STAC to govern what is mostly fixed-route projects but felt that it would not be the best for our community. George added that Julie has decided to keep the two groups separate. George mentioned when looking at granting funding we may have to tighten decisions on how to allocate. Paige – We may be directed to back fill the loss from STIF. Everyone in past has gotten full request awarded except RVTD. RVTD has about a

\$400k deficit that has to be pulled from the general fund to fill. It means we won't get further down the list on STIF projects. 6 projects are complete so far. In June, Route 40 and 60 will increase. Putting in a circulator in Central Point. We will stop there and then be cautious on completing the next projects. RVTB Board approves STF projects but they don't have final approval on the STIF, the State does. Julie wants the State to go for Concept A. In Spring of 2021 STIFAC has to go into a completely new process of coming up with those projects again. They will most likely add one for STF to get it on the list so that it doesn't have to compete separately. There will be a deficiency in STF, unknown how much. Tim mentioned possibly claiming Medicaid trips to help leverage and increase funding. Paige stated it may be possible. New STIF projects need to be finalized by March.

5800 mailers went out about the online portals and how to log into them.

George shared some good news – DHS found gaps between transportation and housing and will work to fill those gaps with strategies and goals.

We will start the meetings and prepping for allocating funding for the next biennium at the end of 2020.

George suggested to extend the meetings from 1 to 1 ½ hrs long when we are doing the funding allocating meetings.

10. Adjournment

Mr. Adams adjourned the meeting at 4:06 pm

Stacy Chaplin,
Recording Secretary