

**Rogue Valley Transportation District  
The Special Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting  
Zoom Video Conference, June 17, 2020 3:00 pm**

Attended:

Julie Ormand  
Sue Slack  
George Adams  
Silvia Ceron  
Louise Shawkat – Joined at 3:15pm  
Bill Littlefield

Staff:

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

Absent:

None

Guests:

Dee Anne Everson - United Way  
Brooke Erb – CVN/Call A Ride  
Kristen Milligan – CVN

**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 May 20, 2020 Minutes**

Sue Slack Motioned and Bill Littlefield 2<sup>nd</sup>, All in favor, motion passed.

**4. CVN Presentation**

Kristin Milligan Shared a screen with slide show. They run a lot of programs. Call A Ride which is ran by Community Volunteer Network, provides services to Adults 55+ to Reduce isolation, increase senior engagement and community connectivity. Brooke is Call A Ride Coordinator which is under the RSV program. Within RSV have multiple programs where seniors help other seniors. Call A Ride is a free

service. Volunteers are 55+ and clients are 60+ or disabled. Service takes clients to medical appointments. Volunteers have background checks and DMV driving record pulled. They use their own vehicles and get reimbursed at \$.30/mile. Provided Jackson County Data. Our service ensures that those folks are getting to their appointments with a human interaction. Completed a survey to ensure meeting their needs and satisfaction with the program. Discussed Volunteer growth and mileage growth which has been significant. Net growth is a big success. Talked about their COVID-19 Response. Pulled Volunteers April 1<sup>st</sup>. Valley Lift took over for essential apts. Brooke remained clients main point of contact. Non-essential appointments were deferred to June and beyond. Going to start pulling some of those rides back from RVTD. Thanked RVTD for the support during this time. Projecting late summer to start seeing an increase. Always have a waitlist. People are really asking for additional services such as grocery stores. Right now don't do that per grant but would be a great addition. Challenges/barriers to program: Volunteers can't serve clients in wheelchairs. There is a gap of clients not being eligible for Medicaid and not being able to afford Valley Lift. Wants to get information on getting scrip to share with clients. Noticing more Spanish speaking clients and would like to be able to serve them. Trying to find the balance of need, capacity and location.

George asked when volunteers come back, if they have thought of a policy to help the drivers stay virus free. Kristin stated they have issued a new policy. Clients and drivers wear masks. Clients sitting in back seat, passenger side to keep as much distance away from driver as possible. They have masks and sanitizer drivers can use and are asked to wipe down the vehicle to the best of their ability. George asked if taking temperatures is part of the policy? They don't talk about temperature but Brooke screens to ensure clients are not having symptoms. Louise commented about the number of miles traveled and stated COVID has made us aware of climate change and how co2 levels went down when people were at home and not driving. Thanked Kristen for their service. Bill asked what areas are served. Jackson County Boundary. They only have a handful of volunteers that are willing to do

those types of trips from Shady Cove to Ashland. Brooke provided Bill with Call-A-Ride contact info. Julie asked about future funding plans if not able to bring service back up to Pre-COVID levels. Program has been in place for 20-30 years and the need only has continued to grow and feels will be able to provide adequate service in the future. Paige mentioned considering getting a grant amendment through ODOT that we could help with that.

## **5. United Way Presentation**

Deann – United Way proud to be doing the Mobility Management work. AI Chair of Transportation Impact Committee. She Thanked RVTD for picking up food and friends and CVN during COVID-19. Deann mentioned some things that their volunteers enjoyed about their work and how it brings people together. During this grant period have been working on afterhours, evening and weekend transportation. Trying to see if they could launch something similar to Uber/Lift but for people in wheelchairs. They worked with Britt and OSF to provide tickets for free or at a greatly reduced rate for people with disabilities. Significant research with grocery pick-up and delivery for target populations. Surveyed agencies surrounding the topic to see what sort of issues. Now in the process of exploring grant opportunities. Spent time exploring sidewalk bus issues and exploring how to deal with them. Looking at the surge and need for bicycles for transportation.

## **6. RVTD COVID-19 Update**

Paige – Fixed route ridership still significantly down but picked up a little since beginning of June. Still seeing issues on Route 10 where we are needing to send a shuttle once or twice a week. New 3 Feet distancing requirements. Oregon is the only state that has allowed the 3 ft distancing. Allowed buses to handle 19 passengers. Drivers are turning away passengers at 20. Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> completed service enhancement at near normal routes. Still have 1X and 21 suspended. Few routes still at lower frequencies. Ending Service at 7pm. Eagle Point route back in service. Current passengers made aware of enhancements but

taking a below the radar approach to let others know. Know that it will be Months of 19 max capacity and face masks required most likely at least through December. Created Reasonable Modification Policy providing exemptions for face masks. Driver will ask passengers to comply with policy if not wearing a mask. If individual states they can't or won't, drivers will ask do you have a condition that prevents you from wearing one? If they say, yes, they will be allowed to board. We can't ask or require anything else. Policy starts tomorrow.

## **7. Valley Lift COVID-19 Update**

Tim stated there have been a reduction in ride requests. Still providing sanitizer, and masks. Updated website with changes. Valley Lift back in Eagle Point.

## **8. Ridership Numbers during COVID-19**

Tim shared his screen to show visual changes happening that were impacted by COVID. Can see between Jan-Feb, then in March significant decline. Showed ridership of Food & Friends as well as CVN. Valley Lift, Plus, and DD53 are the core trips and services. Showed Impact of COVID between January and April. Had a 90% decrease in DD53 trips. 60% decrease in Valley Lift Trips. In March when trips decreased, started looking for opportunities to start coordinating with other agencies. In April delivered 719 meals and 806 meals in May for Food & Friends. Stopped providing Food N Friends June 1<sup>st</sup>. For CVN in April we did 90 trips and in may did 112 trips. Still doing CVN. Stacy emailed members a spreadsheet showing decreases in ridership as well.

## **9. Funding Applications Process Overview**

Will cover at next meeting

## **10. Next STAC Meeting Date – August 19, 2020**

## **11. Agenda Items for next meeting**

## Funding Application Process Overview

Recommend 90 min meeting for August.

### **12. Other Business / Comments, Questions, Concerns**

George stated to Paige that he heard that Josephine Community Transit was awarded a \$2.3 million dollar grant. Paige stated it was part of the Cares Act and that RVTD was awarded \$7 million dollars to help offset the service decreases caused by Non-STIF funding. STIF funds only to enhance service, cannot be used to sustain. The service we have in place now, will be supported for an estimated 18 months to 2 years without any issues. Care Act will mostly be supporting assisting operations.

George suggested to Tim that the portal website be updated to reflect the EP Route Running again.

### **13. Adjournment**

Mr. Adams adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm

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Stacy Chaplin,  
Recording Secretary

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