

**Rogue Valley Transportation District
The Special Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
Zoom Video Conference, October 21, 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
Cory Benton, Translink Operations Manager
Bryan Simpson, RVTD Veteran Travel Trainer

Guests Presenting:

Amber Robles
Jim Norris

Absent:

None

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call conducted; 6 members were in attendance.

3. Review and Approve August 19, 2020 Minutes

Bill Littlefield Motioned and Sue Slack 2nd, All in favor, motion passed.

4. Living Opportunities Presentation

Presented by Jim Norris and Amber

Jim Norris shared a slideshow. Living Opps est. in 1974. Support over 300 families w intellectual or developmental disabilities. Mission is that individuals that we support and serve have choice in the life that they live. Fulfill mission in 4 areas: Live, work, create and learn. Our Vision is a community that embraces everyone as an individual.

Supportive Living: Supports individuals who live in their own home. 70+ individuals currently with 30 staff members. Help them with money, medical and meal planning/prep. 24 hour residential: Has 6 homes. 20 supported individuals and 50 staff members. Staffed 24/7. Big part of what we do is Community Involvement. Going to the Gym, Swimming, dancing, horseback riding, dancing, etc., to do the things they want to do. The studio downtown is probably the most well-known. Art, music, Drama are offered. Employment Services directed by amber. Artists receive 50% of their proceeds from art sales.

Amber with Employment Services stated they target forming partnerships with local businesses to develop jobs for our job seekers, and then we provide coaching supports for both the individual and business. Pre-COVID over 120 Individuals employed, over 80 local businesses, 22 employment services staff members to provide support. Pre-vocational, resumes, interviews, skills match. Wide variety of jobs available. Our community is more open in embracing a wider range of jobs. Transportation: 182 Persons enrolled, 43 are seniors as well. 18 fleet vehicles and staff use personal vehicles. Fleet between 2001-2019. Estimated 2900 trips and 9600 Miles per month in fleet vehicles. (post COVID). 4500 miles in staff vehicles, not submitted for funding, just keep track. Combination of funding is received for transportation. STF and DD53. Of the above numbers 750 trips are DD53 reimbursed trips and 1096 are STF reimbursed each month. Provide services in Jackson County. Shady Cove to Ashland. Try to refer to Valley Lift as much as possible for Transportation.

Julie asked what types of rides are being provided under the STF. Amber stated it was for ALL services. Louise asked when replacing vehicles are you looking into hybrid? Amber stated they have had Hybrids in the past and that most of their vehicles come from RVTD or from ODOT. Sue asked How many wheelchair accessible vehicles are from ODOT vs RVTD? Amber stated 80% are from RVTD. Of passenger vehicles 4-5 are from ODOT.

Bill asked what the fee is the type of transportation included in their service. Transportation only provided for individuals enrolled in Living Opps services. Referrals from Jackson County DD services or Creative Supports and Voc Rehab.

George asked if services will be expanding. Amber stated they are always looking to grow. George asked, now that he has help make Prescott Park ADA accessible, would you think about taking clients there? Amber absolutely and that they do a lot in the parks and are great for Health and Wellness activities.

Louise asked if drivers are union or volunteers. Amber stated they are paid and trained as direct support staff.

5. Funding Source Definitions

Paige shared her screen. Wanted to provide better overview of the different funding

we have in the State. Stated there was a document that ODOT has, document is a work in Progress but provides overview available specific to elderly and disabled transportation. Found that it hasn't been thoroughly updated since 2017. STIF = Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund meant to enhance and expand transportation services across the State, directed to mostly Fixed-Route Transit Services. Not ADA specific. STF = Special Transportation Fund specifically for Elderly and Disabled transportation. Shared ODOT Document on her screen. Solicitation and award of several funding sources. 5310 also specific for seniors and disabled transportation. It can be used for capital for vans and contracted services, which we use with the contracted Paratransit Service. It can also be used for some discretionary projects for a different solicitation. STF was not in this chart because this is federal funding through the state. The state funding is where the STF comes through. That is going to be reduced but don't know how much. Still waiting for estimate. Showed chart. Next Biennium anticipated 10-million-dollar shortage is state wide. Not sure what that means for us yet. Ballot measure increase on cigarettes and trying for taxing vaping impacts STF but not until 2022. STF is going to be less. STIF can be used to fill gap but has to first go to STIFAC. It would have to go into the plan in order to use it. Its clear in the application once its available what it funds. Will provide additional information when applications are available. George asked that the form be sent to all members. It doesn't address the consolidation with the STF/STIF. State General Fund has had to backfill. Legislature allocates 10 million. Louise asked why they aren't doing that. Its due to us getting the new funding.

George asked if there is some way to get definitions sent out to Members STIF, STF etc.

6. United We Ride Plan Update

Paige is working on the plan with Bryan Simpson. Connie did good job in creating it. Have decided to update Plan in house. Sending out survey with United Way in the next month. Draft ready in early spring. Bryan did a lot of work to identify programs and services available and is well networked in services. Taking what he learned in that program to this plan. Trying to get up to speed on what's been going on in the Valley. He's excited to help try to find solutions. Looking for updated stats. Found they are still collecting data and more info should be avail from the census next month. Sent flyer out about 3 weeks ago. RVCOG, they did their senior and disabilities plan which they didn't have before. Trying to capture plans done by other agencies to build into our plan and update. Trying to decide on what to call the plan. May stay with United We Ride. In March committee should start receiving materials to review.

7. Set January & February Special Meeting Dates

STF materials to drop in November. Would be a good idea to look at. Tim will send

Survey monkey on availability to decide on meeting. Standard meeting date would fall on Feb 17. Stacy will call Bill Once a majority to see if Bill will be able to attend those dates.

8. RVTD COVID-19 Update

Paige – Still at same phase II executive order. Face Masks. In a holding pattern. Ridership down 50%. SOU and RCC closed which is about 20% of our ridership. Many scared to be out in public. We are waiting and providing service levels that we can. Medford to Ashland still sending out shadow bus about 4 times a day. It's very random.

9. Valley Lift COVID-19 Update & 2020 Fire Evacuations

Tim Similar to Fixed-Route. Seeing higher ridership's in the Ashland Connector. Still social distancing and seeing a lot of demand. Still requiring masks. Had a positive COVID-19 test in our call center. Increased cleaning, masks worn all the time for a period of time.

Fires were quite a time. Participated in several evacuations. Staged at Phoenix High school, Supported EOC for request in Evacs. Had about 8 vehicles. Opportunities to learn from this. Set up at the Expo to shuttle to Walmart, Goodwill, etc. Used the Ashland Connector Spare App. Julie said they heard good kudos for us doing that. Providing transportation to FEMA/Red Cross location. Hoping to fill gaps over the next 6 months.

Seeing drop in requests due to COVID but are steady. Sue stated she heard that busses were staged at RRMC and she was very grateful for that.

10. Next STAC Meeting Date – December 16, 2020

11. Agenda Items for next meeting

Next Years STAC Dates

12. Other Business / Comments, Questions, Concerns

George shared his link for video in the comments.

Louise Shawkat Application Renew. George Adams Motioned and Sue Slack Second, all in favor, Motion Approved to approve Louise Shawkat's Application and send to RVTD Board for Approval.

ODOT through N. Phoenix to have a modernization project. Historically that area didn't have bike lanes or sidewalks. Redevelopment to add those in. They will fully compensate home owners the appraised value before the fires. Looking to get a grant to replace 5 shelters as well as sidewalks on each side. Preparing a grant. ODOT is looking for funding partners.

George asked Tim, how much ridership dropped. Tim stated about 60% drop in ridership. Lowest its been in a long time. October historically was a busier month, So far, no huge upticks probably due to the fires.

Silvia Ceron – This will be her last meeting. Took a new job with Social Services Emergency Liaison between county and state for wildfire recovery for about the next year. Hoping to rejoin at that time. Julie will look at their management team for another person to join during that time. Julie mentioned maybe getting someone from RV COG.

Louise – February 4th Transit Equity Day. Rosa Parks Action Group nationwide reconfiguring now plan will have an online forum. Topics, transportation, transit jobs, transit and climate, transportation and disability picture. When she finds out more about the launch date for the forum is she'll let us all know. Paige stated RVTDD would like to contribute.

George mentioned a flaw with new vehicles He almost ran into the seat. Tim stated that the seat that was in the way will be removed. Tim stated to let us know if there are any additional concerns after the seat gets removed.

George wondering about masks and if deaf people could still read lips. Tim stated not much we can do. He hasn't heard about anyone having trouble.

George shared new concept. CIE project from Reliance. Transformation of digital records. They want Community Information Exchange. Consists of 14 subjects that will be connected. They want to get DHS on board. He shared concept. Has received three power points so far.

Julie reminded DHS Oregon Dept of Human Services are moving. The old system and the new system to update or apply for benefits. Starting Nov 2nd. We Might be hearing about it.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Adams adjourned the meeting at 4:33 pm

Stacy Chaplin,
Recording Secretary
