



**Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Hood River County Transportation District**  
**STIF Advisory Committee Meeting**

**224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room**  
**Hood River, OR 97031**  
**4:00pm – 5:00pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call Meeting to Order:**

Amy called the Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF) Advisory Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call:**

Committee members Gisela Ayala-Echeverria (One Community Health), Kate Harrison (Providence Dethman House), Kevin Liburdy (City of Hood River Planning Department), Eleazar Reyes (One Community Health) were in attendance.

**Absent:** Lexi Stickel (PacificSource)

**Public:** Jovi Arellano (ODOT), Sara Crook (Travel Trainer for CAT & MCEDD)

**Staff:** Amy Schlappi, Tim Ravins

**3. Confirm STIF Discretionary & Statewide Network Funding Projects**

This meeting's agenda will be to review the discretionary projects that CAT has applied for and prioritize them. Amy led off reviewing how CAT is funded, different grants we receive, and a yearlong planning schedule related to grant applications. CAT is funded by Federal and State funds, we then use local funds from property taxes to help leverage these state and federal funds. Federal funds are 5311 and 5310. 5311 will pay for roughly half of our local services (Hood River City route, Upper Valley route and Dial A ride) and then we use formula funds from ODOT to match and pay for most of the other half. 5310 funds pay for local route preventative maintenance and our mobility management program. CAT receives two types of state funding; discretionary funds are applied toward our Columbia Gorge Express services and formula funds are which are automatically allocated and come from payroll taxes.

STIF discretionary grants have already been submitted, Amy will review the projects later in the meeting. 5310 and 5311 grant applications are due in about a month and the STIF formula funded projects will be reviewed next and committee feedback is welcome. Another graphic showing compliance requirements was presented to the group.

**STIF Discretionary & Statewide Network Funding Projects**

Columbia Gorge Express (CGE):



-Staff priority recommendation 1

-Preserve the CGE service that operates along the I-84 corridor between Hood River, Cascade Locks, Multnomah Falls, and Portland

-7 days a week up to 9 times per day

-Impacts access management, land use, parking and traffic congestion efforts

-Service operated directly by CAT

#### Expansion and Replacement Vehicles:

-Staff priority recommendation 2

-Procurement of 3 new vehicles:

-1 - 35 to 40 ft vehicle with space to accommodate recreational gear (1 -Expansion)

-1 - 21 to 30 ft trolley buses for the Hood River City route (1 - Replacement)

-1 - 22 - 30 ft Cutaway for local services (1- Replacement)

#### Facility Site Development

-Staff priority recommendation 3

-Relocation of current Park & Ride so that it can be re-developed into a bus storage and maintenance facility

-Construction of interregional transit hub at Lot 1

#### Bus Stop Infrastructure

-Staff priority recommendation 4

-Procurement and installation of up to 30 permanent bus stop signs and seating

-Will replace current temporary signage and include infrastructure for new stops

-Contractor to install signage

#### Columbia Gorge Explore – Transit to Trails

-Staff priority recommendation 5

-Pilot project most likely Friday-Mondays providing access to trailheads along the I-84 corridor

-Project planning will require a consultant to assist with the deciding route and stops

**Motion:** Kevin made a motion to approve the prioritization of STIF Discretionary projects based on staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Gisela.



**Approved by:** Eleazar, Gisela, Kate, and Kevin

**Opposed by:** None

#### **4. STIF Poverty Threshold for Hood River County**

Amy is seeking a formal motion to either confirm or discuss the poverty threshold.

-The previous STIF plan defined “communities with a high percentage of low-income households” (a.k.a High Poverty areas) as Census block groups within the County that have 15% or more of households with an income level that is 200% or less of the federal poverty standards.

-During the last biennium the threshold was lowered from 30% to 15% to recognize the cost-of-living increase.

-Staff recommendation is to keep current threshold.

Two informational graphics with maps showing the poverty threshold were shown and Kevin pointed out a discrepancy on one of the maps.

**Motion:** Kevin made a motion to approve the poverty threshold of 15%. The motion was seconded by Eleazar.

**Approved by:** Eleazar, Gisela, Kate, and Kevin

**Opposed by:** None

#### **5. STIF 25-27 Biennium Projects**

Current ODOT estimated funds that we are expected to get in fiscal year 2026 (starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026) is \$783,000. For the fiscal year 2027 (July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027) it will be estimated at about \$800,000.

Staff recommends the advisory committee keep the following factors in mind:

- Frequency
- Expansion
- Reduction of Fares
- Procurement of buses
- Improve Service Connections
- Increase Coordination
- Student Services
- Maintaining Service
- Enhancing services for Vulnerable Populations
- Benefit or burden marginalized demographics

Staff recommendations based on current programs and available funds are:

##### **1. Service operations – Maintain Services**

Maintain Hood River City, Upper Valley, Dial-A-Ride, Columbia Gorge Express, and



Gorge-to-Mountain Express administration and operations.

**2. Mobility services – Low Income & Student Passes**

Pays for low-income and student fare programs.

**3. Mobility Services - Outreach and Awareness of Services**

Targeted outreach, marketing, and travel training to vulnerable populations. Increase community awareness of services. Match for 5310 Mobility Management Travel Trainer.

**4. Capital Projects & Expansion – Facility Site Development**

Match for Facility Site Developments Projects (Construction, Design, Engineering, Etc)

**5. Capital Projects & Expansion – Vehicle Procurement**

Match for the purchase of replacement and expansion vehicles and equipment.

**6. Program Reserve – Unanticipated Costs**

Cover unanticipated costs and additional funds for projects as needed.

**7. Carry Over Program Reserve**

Cover unanticipated costs and additional funds for projects as needed.

Prioritization of the above projects would be 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 4, and 5.

**Motion:** Gisela made a motion to approve the project list and the. The motion was seconded by Eleazar.

**Approved by:** Eleazar, Gisela, Kate, and Kevin

**Opposed by:** None

**6. Next Steps**

Next Meetings:

Winter/Spring 2025: Review Hood River City and Upper Valley Changes, FY26 STIF Formula Project Goals

Amy will be looking for feedback from the committee on the City and Upper Valley changes at upcoming meetings as the plans will differ slightly from the Transit Master Plan. Planning for these changes is currently ongoing and. How the changes will be discussed with the community and opportunities for feedback from the public will also be a topic at these upcoming meetings.

Fall 2025: Review FY25 Progress Report.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.**



The Hood River County Transportation District STIF meeting minutes are prepared and presented in summary form. Video recordings of the meetings are on file at CAT and are part of the approved minutes. If you would like to watch the recording of the meeting, please contact Tim Ravins [tim@catransit.org](mailto:tim@catransit.org), or call (541) 386-4202.

Prepared by: Tim Ravins, Administrative Assistant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Ravins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Approved by: