



Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023
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 Lexi Stickel (PacificSource), Taylor Engel (Providence Dethman House), Gisela Ayala-Echeverria and Kevin Liburdy (City of Hood River Planning Department) were in attendance.

Ex Officio Members: Kathy Fitzpatrick (MCEDD), Jessica Metta (MCEDD)

Staff: Amy Schlappi

Absent: Leti Moretti, Rachelle Begay, Ivy Collins

3. STIF Discretionary & Statewide Network Funding Projects Update

Amy stated the applications submitted in late 2022 have all been fully funded at the requested amount. With the funding the Columbia Gorge Express service levels remain the same.

Both the Intelligent Information Systems and Gorge Regional Transit Network: Inclusive Outreach and Education projects have been fully funded as well. This will ensure spreading community awareness in an equitable way.

4. STIF Upcoming Projects

1. Project 1: Low-Income and Student Fare Program

- Gorge Transit Connect Program will have an adjusted structure requiring the local partner organizations with transportation funds to purchase discounted passes from us, then determine who qualifies and distribute the passes to their clients. This will keep the longevity of the program's funds.

- Student Fare Program gives free passes to all middle and high school students at Back to School Night. With the intent of giving students access outside of school hours.

2. Project 2: Targeted Service to Vulnerable Populations

- Portland Medical Shuttle grant will be ending and is moving under the STIF project funds. The demand is being analyzed compared to the current cost.

- Match Funds for Upper Valey & Cascade Locks



Low ridership has us exploring new, more cost-effective solutions for Cascade Locks to keep the service available to more vulnerable populations. The best path to effective community outreach in Cascade Locks is still being sought.

3. Project 3: Outreach and Awareness of Services
-A portion of these funds will go to our Mobility Manager /Travel Trainer to manage Gorge Transit Connect Program and work with outreach projects and vulnerable populations. Improving the user interface online and combining brochures and printed materials to simplify service information.
4. Project 4: Maintain Existing Services
Match and operating expenses for Columbia Gorge Express, Hood River City Route, Hood River Connect, Upper Valley and Gorge-to-Mountain Express
5. Project 5: Vanpool and Mobility Services
Working with *Commute Options* who does a similar program in Bend. Also determining eligibility requirement options with an emphasis on lower wage populations. A deviated fixed route could be an option for Cascade Locks. A Carbon Reduction grant is being applied for
6. Program Reserve will help maintain services with any expense where supply chain may cause an issue and safeguard against inflation without having to use reserved funds.
7. Capital Expense and Replacement
Match funds for vehicle purchases. Rollover funds were already expended.
8. ADA Improvements
Improvement of ADA access to bus stops has been pushed back.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm.

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, or call (541) 386-4202.

Prepared by: Tim Ravins, Administrative Assistant