



Wednesday, December 18th, 2024
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the Hood River County Transportation District

224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Greg Pack called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

2. Roll Call

Tiah took roll call: Greg Pack - Board Chair, Megan Ramey - Board Vice Chair, Tamra Taylor - Board Secretary/Treasurer, Gisela Ayala-Echeverria, Matt Althoff

Absent: Meghan Larivee, Eleazar Reyes

Staff: Amy Schlappi, Jeff Acciaioli, Tiah Mayhew, Tim Ravins

Public: Philip Wagoner

3. Approval of November 20th, 2024, Board of Director Meeting Minutes

Greg asked if there were any changes that the Board would like to make to the November meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were included in the Board meeting materials. No changes were requested.

Motion: Matt made a motion to approve the November 20th Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Tamra.

Approved by: Greg, Megan R., Tamra, Gisela, and Matt

Opposed by: None

4. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

5. Monthly Financial Report – Tiah Mayhew

The financials for November were included in the meeting materials. There were no questions or comments from Board members and Tiah said everything is on track.

6. Resolution and Action Items – Amy Schlappi

There were no resolutions or action items for this month's meeting.



7. Operations Manager Report – Jeff Acciaioli

a. Performance Report

Overall, November was a slower month with only twenty days of full service due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The overall safety score is 99, speeding continues to be low. For the month of November, CAT vehicles were driven 974 hours and 31,271 miles with fuel costs of \$12,300 for a cost per mile of \$0.39.

There were no formal customer complaints and no vehicle incidents. Three customer incidents, one of which was an employee experiencing a medical event and an ambulance was called. The employee was assessed and found to be ok and has returned to work. A visibly impaired passenger fell to the ground at a designated bus stop but declined any medical attention. Later the same day they boarded a bus to Gateway Transit Center where TriMet security was notified after the passenger deboarded the bus.

b. New Vehicle Update

Two new Freightliner buses are now expected to be delivered the second week of January. The vehicle wrap is scheduled to be installed January 9th so the third week in January may be more realistic.

c. Gorge To Mountain Update

Staff has focused on ensuring comprehensive training for all Gorge-To-Mountain drivers. A final training run up to Mt. Hood Meadows was conducted today for drivers scheduled on the route.

d. Employee of the Month

Zach McFarland has been named CAT's Employee of the Month.

e. Ridership

Overall ridership is up from last year but down from last month due to reduction of services.

8. Executive Director Report – Amy Schlappi

a. Review of Recommended Hood River City Route Changes Summer/Fall 2025

Amy presented a slide show and update on the Hood River City Route redesign. This is informational only with the opportunity for discussion and an informal approval of a general direction for the project. The 2023 Transit Master Plan identified that CAT would move away from a circulator route to a linear route. Due to limited resources CAT cannot implement the specific design that was identified in the Transit Master Plan.

Third party consultants at Jarrett Walker have provided some recommendations for the route and Amy has recently met with City of Hood River staff regarding some concerns. The current Hood River City route has a frequency of every forty-five minutes, operating 7 days a week with twelve service hours on weekdays and about nine hours of service on



weekends. The proposed route from the Transit Master Plan split Hood River into an East route and West route, both being a linear design. The need for two buses running simultaneously, along with two drivers, makes this unfeasible with funding available. The consultants have recommended CAT continues with a two-direction route, modify the service frequency and reduce some inefficiencies of the route.

To reduce inefficiencies the consultants recommended that staff remove bus stops in the parking lots of Walmart and Safeway, and making the loop at the waterfront smaller. This would eventually allow the route to include The Best Western Hotel and Hood River bridge area. A phased approach would be used, starting with the removal of the parking lot stops at Walmart and Safeway. Amy has presented this to The City of Hood River pointing out concerns with areas that would require unsafe left-hand turns. Options for a workaround were shown to the Board and logistics of the area around Safeway, Rite-Aid, and downtown were discussed. There was then some discussion about the built environment of downtown, intersections, parking spaces, and some possible solutions. All Board members agreed the direction of the reducing route inefficiencies in the short term is appropriate.

b. Next Steps for Upper Valley Service Planning

Amy will be meeting with the Hood River County Planning Department to review transitioning the Upper Valley Route from a deviated fixed route to a Fixed Route. To transition the route to a fixed route, new bus stops will need to be added. Additional research will be done, as well as working with the county to determine next steps.

c. Upcoming Union Negotiations

The Union contract for our drivers expires June 30th, 2025. Negotiations are expected to start in February or March of 2025. No action is needed from The Board currently.

d. Grant Applications/Funding Updates

Grant applications for Columbia Gorge Express and facility site development projects have been passed to the next level of review. Oregon Transportation Commission will still need to make a final approval, so the grant awards have not been finalized but looks promising. Three other grants have not been moved forward. Those applications were for replacement and expansion vehicles, bus stop facility improvements, and planning projects for the Columbia Gorge Explore service. ODOT has stated that the award cycle had received a large amount of applications and there was not enough funding for all projects. Replacement vehicle funding is the only major concern, but as opportunities present themselves CAT will continue to apply for vehicle replacement funding.

Amy updated the Board on potential future Federal funding reimbursement concerns. Mid-cycle grants that CAT was awarded for design of the Inter-Regional Transit Hub, expanded Dial-A-Ride service, replacement vehicles, and relocation of the Park-And-Ride facility still have not been signed. Originally, they were to be signed by the end of October, but that was pushed back until the end of December. Now CAT is being told that mid-January is when staff should be able to sign the contracts. CAT will most likely have a delayed reimbursement of funds spent on those projects until June 2026. CAT will



prioritize the park-and-ride and dial-a-ride expansion before funds are used toward any other projects. Additionally, 5311 and 5310 grant reimbursement may be delayed for the next biennium until Summer of 2026. 5311 is used for a portion of local routes and 5310 is used for vehicle maintenance. Definitive information of reimbursement delays is unknown. CAT does have healthy reserves and property tax funds that will be available to maintain services. The full scope of the impact is not clear yet.

9. Discussion Items

Megan R. also checked in on a letter of support for the E-Bike library that Hood River County School District is applying for, Oregon E-Bikes will provide the bikes. Megan R. will also be doing a walkabout with Commissioner Jeff Baker to advocate for transit while discussing freeway expansion projects.

10. Upcoming Events

CAT is closed Wednesday Dec. 25th for Christmas Day and Wednesday Jan. 1st, 2025 for New Years Day.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Megan R. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tamra.

Approved by: Greg, Megan R., Tamra, Gisela, and Matt

Opposed by: None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59PM.

The Hood River County Transportation District Board of Directors 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

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

Approved by: Tamra Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamra Taylor", written in a cursive style.