

TAC Meeting Minutes 01/25/2024

Called meeting to order @ 1:30 pm

Present at meeting- Ken Bronson, Dawn Mitchell, Marilyn Smith, JoAnn McQueary, Reagan Maudlin, Barry Hoffman, Jonathan Pelcher, Lorelei Lavoie, Lisa Scherf

\*Introductions: Marilyn, City of Albany; Dawn, Linn Shuttle, Sweet Home Transportation, Senior Center; JoAnn McQueary, East Linn County; Ken Bronson, Senior/Retired, Reagan Maudlin, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator; Barry Hoffman, Albany Transit Manager; Jonathan Pelcher, Sunshine Industries Unlimited, Inc.; Lorelei Lavoie, Oregon Mennonite Residential Services; Lisa Scherf, Corvallis Transportation Services Supervisor

Ken requests doing the TAC housekeeping at head of the agenda.

\*8A Agenda Item: Nominations for TAC Chair; Dawn nominates Ken Bronson; Marilyn seconds, passes unanimously. Vice Chair nominations tabled for next meeting.

\*Adopt meeting minutes – Marilyn moves to approve the 10/19/2023 minutes, JoAnn Seconds, motion passes unanimously.

\*Public commenters- None

\*Provider Updates-

**Reagan** relays Kindra Oliver provided a written update to be provided to the TAC via email following the meeting.

**Lorelei Lavoie** provides general updates on Oregon Mennonite Residential Services including a positive staffing position and continuation of service delivery to people with developmental disabilities.

**Jonathan Pelcher** provides general updates on Sunshine Industries Unlimited, Inc. noting an aging fleet that is causing increased expenses for maintenance and operation. They report that Sunshine has recently returned to financially operating in the positive since COVID interruptions, but that it would be some time before they could start looking at reducing the age of their fleet.

**Barry Hoffman** reports having quotes out for electric/hybrid bus purchase and Call-A-Ride vans arriving soon. ATS/Loop going well with some driver turn over. Ridership up significantly; year over year October-December reports 10,520 rides in 2022 to 17,045 rides in 2023. Similarly, the loop year over year October-December reports 19,000 rides in 2022 to 24,000 rides in 2023. Transit app usage increasing and data can be available by requesting from Nick Meltzer of Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments ([nmeltzer@ocwcog.org](mailto:nmeltzer@ocwcog.org)). The Bus Barn is close to use with an approximate move in date around February 2024.

Some discussion was held around cost of charging stations for electric vehicles.

**Dawn Mitchell** reports selling three diesel busses and waiting for two new busses to arrive. Year over year ridership increase reflecting July-December with 25,000 rides in 2022 to 28,410 in 2023.

Lisa Scherf shares Corvallis public transit is running about 85% ridership compared to pre COVID pandemic, asks how Linn County compares to pre-pandemic ridership.

Albany reports reaching pre-pandemic ridership numbers, but not exceeding them for the Loop. ATS is increased from pre-pandemic ridership numbers, offering the updated routes, schedule, and continuation of free fares as contributing. Albany intends to remain fareless for the 2023-2025 biennium and will revisit the topic of fares for the 25-27 biennium.

Sweet Home reports returning to pre-pandemic ridership within a narrow margin shy.

Ken raises a desire to continue with updates with an emphasis on the LBCC Mobility Hub project.

\*Financial Report Reagan provides a review of the cash position of the Transportation Program at Linn County. Conversation was had around the size of STIF payments received in the first two quarters as compared to the projections. December STIF ODOT estimates were reviewed and compared to potential projections.

Barry asked if there is a history of cyclical payments sizes due to activity differences throughout the year. Reagan will review the STIF Payment history and report out at the next meeting.

\*Carbon Reduction Funding information was shared regarding the Statewide \$12M coming available for low/no emission vehicles; Teams Meeting information was shared for anyone interested in gaining additional information about the opportunity.

Lisa offers conversation and information about Corvallis' experience with electric vehicles to anyone interested in participating in the Carbon Reduction Funding (lisa.scherf@corvallisoregon.gov).

\*8B Announcements- Region 2B is getting a new ODOT RTC; a meeting will be held after the position start to allow for introductions.

\*Other Business-

Next meeting to be held in April 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 1:30 PM; Location TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Reagan Maudlin, LC Special/Rural Transp. Coordinator

Approved: 04/18/2024