

Tuesday, December 17th, 2019
Hood River County Transportation District
Board of Directors Meeting
224 Wasco Loop
Hood River, OR 97031

Board Meeting Attendees

Board Members: Leanne Hogie, Marbe Cook, Leticia Valle, Lara Dunn, Mark Reynolds, Rob Brostoff

Staff: Amy Schlappi

Public: Teresa Gallucci (Our Team Accounting)

Leanne Hogie called the December Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:04am and welcomed guest attendees.

Approval of Minutes

Leanne Hogie asked the Board of Directors to review the November 19th, 2019 meeting minutes. Lara Dunn made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as presented, this motion was seconded by Rob Brostoff and unanimously approved by the Board.

Director's Report

Ridership: Amy Schlappi acknowledged that it is hard to fully compare the November ridership numbers with previous months due to routes being changed November 4, 2019 and the total numbers are very similar previous months. Leanne Hogie reminded the group that we have added service hours and in theory should see a higher ridership than in previous months. Leanne Hogie asked staff to calculate the passengers per service hour so that the Board can have a better understanding of how many riders we are serving per service hour and how those numbers compare to previous months.

- Staff will research passenger per service hour calculations of CAT services.

Gorge to Mountain Express Update: Amy Schlappi summarized the current status of the Gorge To Mountain Express service. The soft pilot began December 16, 2019. The official service will begin December 21st, 2019. CAT has been working with Mt. Hood Meadows to keep the website up to date with any scheduled changes and finalize the route cards. There was general discussion about the method of selecting stops for the route and questions as to why there was not a stop at Pine Grove or Teacup. Marbe Cook asked if Mt. Hood Meadows follows our Drug and Alcohol Policy what happens if inappropriate behavior occurs on the Gorge To Mountain Busses. Amy Schlappi stated that Mt. Hood Meadows is required to follow the same Drug & Alcohol Policies that we are. If inappropriate behavior is reported to CAT, staff will contact Mt. Hood Meadows staff and handle appropriately.

The Dalles Bus Stop Update: Amy Schlappi summarized the need to move The Dalles bus stop from the Lewis and Clark park on Union Street to the LINK Transit Center. The Board received the letter sent to CAT from the City of The Dalles requiring us to relocate the stop. The Board expressed disappointment that there was an issue with the Lewis and Clark park stop since CAT staff had worked with multiple entities in The Dalles before this location was selected. The stop will be changed to the LINK transit Center January 4th. The Board discussed that since LINK does not operate on Sundays there is no transit option for riders to get downtown from the Link Transit Center. Leticia Valle asked if CAT could use the Aquatic Center parking lot as the stop location instead so that riders could walk to or from downtown. Mark Reynolds expressed interest in meeting with MCEDD more often.

- Staff will discuss the option of using the parking lot of the Aquatic Center with Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District.

New Vehicles Update:

Amy Schlappi highlighted that the money for the two large coaches from ODOT has been received. A vehicle reimbursement request for the two smaller busses will be submitted December 17, 2019.

Old Business

Fare Discussion: Lara Dunn summarized the discussion at the Fare Committee meeting, by highlighting:

- The Fare Committee recommended that for the proposed Annual Pass program that the fares are:

Type of Pass	If purchased before May 18, 2020	If purchased May 19, 2020 or after
Adult	\$30	\$90
Children 17 & Under	\$15	\$45
Community ID Holders	\$15	\$45

- CAT can afford to offer this low rate due to interest from local corporate and government entities. Mark Reynolds would like MOU’s with the different organizations.
- As an organization we are still working on the best course of action to serve the Dial-a-Ride riders. The approved fares are for the fixed route services only.
- The idea was discussed to roll out the pass as a go fund me page to raise local support.
- The introductory rate would be available to all who are interested in purchasing the pass.

Amy Schlappi provided an update on how CAT is proposing to fund the marketing plan by revising Grant 33806 (STIF Discretionary) to allow CAT to use \$100k for marketing the service and pass. CAT is working with ODOT on this project. ODOT’s feedback was positive but will need clarifications from CAT (e.g. STIF capital/operations budget impact, in-kind match, deliverable details) prior to its final determination. Leanne Hogie would like clarification on the specifics as to how STIF funds will be used for the marketing of the GORge Pass and how ODOT will contribute to the Portland marketing efforts.

Mark Reynolds made a motion to approve the Annual Pass at the rate of \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 17 and under and Community ID holders if purchased by May 18, 2020. The rate will increase to \$90 for adults and \$45 for children 17 and under and Community ID holders if purchased after May 18, 2020. The Annual Pass will be valid until December 31, 2020. This motion was seconded by Rob Brostoff and unanimously approved by the Board.

Bus Stops Update: Leanne Hogie summarized the discussion at the Bus Stops Committee, by highlighting:

- Public engagement is needed to understand more about how people are getting to bus stops, feedback on current bus stops and ideal stop locations.
- Many regulatory issues are being found when it comes bus stop locations.
- There is a perception that people are not riding the buses.
- More outreach to the city councils in Hood River and Cascade Locks to encourage additional bus stops is needed. Leane Hogie encouraged the Board to talk to city officers on a regular basis.
- Clarification on money available for stops and the specific bus stop equipment we have on hand that needs to be installed.
- ❖ Staff will work with MCEDD to understand money available for bus stops.

- ❖ Staff will work with the city of Hood River, Cascade Locks and the County to ensure the correct CAT link is on the respective web pages.

There was a large amount of discussion as to where bus shelters should be placed and how to engage the community.

New Business

Drug and Alcohol Policy: Amy Schlappi provided an overview of what has changed in this new version of the Drug and Alcohol Policy. This policy has been reviewed and approved by FTA. Leticia Valle made a motion to approve the updated Drug and Alcohol Policy as presented effective December 18, 2019, this was seconded by Lara Dunn and unanimously approved by the Board.

Budget Meeting: Amy Schlappi stated that CAT is working on scheduling the FY 20/21 Budget Committee Meeting after January 1, 2020. The Board would like the meetings to be on the schedule as soon as possible so that members can plan appropriately. Leanne Hoagie would like clarity on our marketing budget and budget for consultants.

Comments on Hood River City Council Workplan: Amy Schlappi described the goal of having the comments on the workplan come from the Board. There was a large amount of discussion regarding the language used. HRCTD supports city goals and committed to providing transportation access.

- ❖ Amy Schlappi will update the draft and then submit to the City of Hood River after it has been reviewed by Board members.

Upcoming Events:

- i) December 30th Special Meeting at 9am
- ii) Leanne Hogie would like to discuss 9 am and wed Thursday meeting early next year
- iii) Kathy Fitzpatrick from MCEDD will be speaking about the Gorge Translink Alliance website at the January Board meeting.

Public comments: No public comments were made.

At 10:44 AM, Rob Brostoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting, this was seconded by Marbe Cook and unanimously approved by the board.