

**Salem Area Mass Transit District
Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 4, 2018
Courthouse Square - Senator Hearing Room
555 Court St NE, Salem, Oregon 97301**

A. CALL TO ORDER & NOTE OF ATTENDANCE:

John Hammill called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with a quorum present. John noted that Victor Reppeto would not be able to stay for the entire meeting and so the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee (STFAC) members agreed to rearrange the agenda by starting off with the Action Items. *(For continuity, the minutes will be written in order of the original agenda.)*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Hammill, Vice Chair; Marja Byers; Victor Reppeto; Sherena Meagher-Osteen; Jean Sherbeck; Ron Harding, Chair (3:26 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Emily Broussard

STAFF:

Ted Stonecliffe, Transit Planner II; Steve Dickey, Director of Transportation Development; Allan Pollock, General Manager; Chris French, Senior Planner; Melissa Kidd, Operations Programs Administrator; Jolynn Franke, Administrative Assistant, Transportation Development

SAMTD BOARD LIAISON:

Colleen Busch, SAMTD Board of Directors

PROVIDERS:

Goran Petrovic, General Manager, MV Transportation; Tim Williams, Safety Manager, MV Transportation; Earlene Naylor, Salem Health

GUESTS:

Beth Jackson, NorthWest Senior and Disability Services; Bryant Baird, Neighbor to Neighbor; one member of the public who did not leave any information

B. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

C. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – May 1, 2018:

John Hammill asked the STFAC members if there were any comments or questions on the May 1, 2018 meeting minutes. As there were none, the minutes were accepted by acclaim.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. November Meeting – moved to Tuesday, November 13 [Ted Stonecliffe] –

The Senator Hearing Room will not be available on November 6 due to Election Day. Therefore, the November STFAC meeting has been moved to Tuesday, November 13.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Recommendation to the Cherriots Board of Directors for two membership applications received. [Ted Stonecliffe] -

The first application received was from Beth Jackson. Beth shared that she is a manager with NorthWest Senior and Disability Services (NWSDS) overseeing the Aging and Disability Resource Connection department. This department takes all requests from the community regarding programs, services, and resources for seniors and individuals with disabilities. One of the most common requests is how to get from one place to another and there are times when a resource is not available to meet this need. Medical transportation from the outlying communities in Marion and Polk counties is especially a struggle. So, Beth feels it would be beneficial to have a seat on the STFAC. Beth lives in Salem, but has not had the opportunity to ride Cherriots services yet. Although this is not a requirement for membership on the STFAC, she would be happy to do so.

Marja Byers motioned for the STFAC to recommend Beth Jackson’s application for membership on the STFAC to the Cherriots Board of Directors. Jean Sherbeck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously among voting members.

The second application received was from Bryant Baird. Bryant retired from the State of Oregon two years ago after working for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Administrative

Services (DAS). He has experience working with environmental justice issues of disadvantaged communities while employed with DEQ. Bryant's primary interest in applying for membership on the STFAC is that he is a daily user of Cherriots services. He rides the Local and Regional buses in Salem and to Turner. He is deeply committed to mass transit and the good it does for communities. He currently works with seniors in dispute resolution with a non-profit organization called Neighbor to Neighbor. He is on the board for this organization and does mediation training. Neighbor to Neighbor works with other non-profits in the area as well, such as women's shelters and the Center for Hope and Safety.

Sherena Meagher-Osteen motioned for the STFAC to recommend Bryant Baird's application for membership on the STFAC to the Cherriots Board of Directors. Marja Byers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously among voting members.

Ted Stonecliffe noted that there are currently four open positions on the STFAC; one of which would expire at the end of the 2018 calendar year and one which would expire at the end of the 2019 calendar year. Per the STFAC bylaws, new members would serve out the remainder of those terms and then begin their first two-year terms.

F. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Project update: Highway OR-99E corridor transit planning [Ted Stonecliffe] -

The Highway OR-99E corridor transit planning project is a collaboration between Cherriots, Canby Area Transit (CAT), and the consultant group Jarret Walker and Associates (JWA). This project was funded by an ODOT Transit Network grant awarded in 2016. The purpose of this project is to explore how to improve transit between Oregon City, Canby, Woodburn, and Salem/Keizer. Currently, Cherriots runs Route 10X up to Woodburn and CAT runs Route 99X between Oregon City, Canby, and Woodburn, but there are only two north bound transfer options per day and only three south bound options between Routes 10X and 99X. Cherriots, CAT, and JWA worked together to come up with two alternatives that would provide better connections.

The first option is more timed connections. In this scenario, buses from the north would meet buses from the south in Woodburn more often, allowing riders more transfer options to complete their trips. However, buses would also need to meet the timed connections on the ends of the north and south bound routes in Salem and Oregon City, which would be constraining on the timed connections in Woodburn.

The second option is traded trips. In this scenario each agency would run trips the entire length (Salem to Oregon City) without transfers in the middle. For example, Cherriots and CAT could each run four round trips per day to / from Oregon City, Canby, Woodburn, and Salem/Keizer for a total of eight round trips per day. While these options mainly pertain to weekday service, Cherriots is planning to add limited weekend service in the future along with other service changes related to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF), beginning in September, 2019. These service enhancements would not take away from other services due to this new funding source.

The next step of the 99E corridor project is an onboard survey to be conducted on Cherriots Route 10X and CAT Route 99X in October of this year. The survey will include questions about trip origins, destinations, and fares.

2. Project update: Cherriots Regional bus stop improvements [Ted Stonecliffe] –

The Cherriots Regional bus stop improvements project was funded by the 2015 Special Transportation Fund biennial award. Construction on bus stops began in January of 2018 and concluded in June of 2018.

Improvements include new bus stop signs and poles, four new ADA compliant landing pads, and shelters relocated from abandoned stops to in-service stops. Eleven buses were also updated with the new Cherriots Regional logo.

3. Provider Updates:

- Earlene Naylor of Salem Health provided a brief update on the West Valley Hospital Connections Van. The service is doing well. The community loves it and it continues to grow.

4. Round Table Topics:

- Marja Byers and John Hammill both mentioned that the new Cherriots bus stop signs are difficult to see for those with sight impairment due to the lack of contrast between the signs and the sky. A dark border around the signs would be helpful in providing the necessary contrast. Cherriots Marketing staff are aware of the issue and are working on a solution, but no specifics are available at this time.
- Ron Harding asked about the issue of electric bicycles being allowed on the bus bike racks. Cherriots Operations staff have explored the issue and found that the weight restrictions for the bike racks themselves would prohibit electric bicycles that exceed the weight limit.
- Ron Harding asked if there were any plans for additional service in the Santiam canyon in relation to the STIF program service enhancements. Cherriots Planning staff is currently exploring additional trips up the canyon, including Saturdays, but the limitation is in the number of available buses. However, Cherriots continues to engage those communities throughout the planning process.

As for alternatives to Cherriots services, Ted discovered a service called Mt. Hood Teleporter – a private service between Portland, Salem, and Bend. This may be an option for people in Detroit and Idanha to get to Salem. Cherriots is also working to hear from the City of Silverton and the City of Woodburn about their plans for STIF dollars. These two cities provide good models of small public transit systems for other small communities in Marion and Polk Counties. Other cities may wish to establish local service in a similar way.

- John Hammill and Marja Byers took Tillamook County Transit's Route 60X to Lincoln City and back a few weeks ago. They had a great experience and recommend it for anyone.

- Ted Stonecliffe noted that the next STF and Section 5310 biennial grant solicitation should be announced this November or December by ODOT. There is no word yet on an estimated amount.

G. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Recorded by: Jolynn Franke, Administrative Assistant, Transportation Development Division

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, October 2, 2018; 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Courthouse Square Building, Senator Hearing Room
555 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301