

Umatilla County Transportation Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton OR 97801 Room 114
Zoom virtual option
April 19, 2023 11:00AM

AC Members Present: Staci Kunz (transit consultant); and Teresa Dutcher (Chair)

AC Members Virtually: JD Tovey (CTUIR/Kayak); Heidi Zeigler (DHS); Rod Harwood (GOBHI); and Linda Carter (City of Pendleton)

County Liaison: Megan Davchevski (Transit Coordinator)

Public: Krista Purser, Matt Hughart and Desly Amurao (Kittelson and Associates)

Chair Dutcher greeted the group and called the Umatilla County Transportation Advisory Committee (UCTAC) meeting to order at 11:04 AM. There were introductions of the UCTAC committee members in the room and online.

Meeting Minutes:

Heidi moved to approve the February 6, 2023 minutes as presented. Linda seconded. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Transit Development Plan (TDP) Presentation

Krista Purser with Kittelson and Associates provided a presentation of the Draft Transit Development Plan (TDP).

Chair Dutcher asked if there were any updates since the TDP AC #5 meeting last week? Krista provided an overview of feedback from the AC #5 meeting: text updates to service history, west-end vehicle storage recommendations, Amtrak history, expand bus stop guidance, provide more direction on governance recommendations.

The Umatilla County Transit Development Plan is intended to guide future transit investments and communicate a coordinated vision for transit service and access to transit across all of Umatilla County. The TDP includes information on transit services today, the process and outcomes from the system evaluation, prioritized project packages, and an implementation plan to get services on the ground. The TDP relies on historic, existing, and projected information and, while it provides guidance, the priorities can change based on needs of Umatilla County residents, employees, and visitors, as well as funding opportunities and other factors.

Krista asked the group for feedback on the draft plan.

Rod asked if the City of Pendleton's Care Rides were listed under the existing services? Krista confirmed, yes, Care Rides are listed on the table.

Krista asked the Advisory Committee how they felt about the governance piece. JD asked what the next steps are, are there discussions between the jurisdictions or will there be a focus group? He thinks this plan gets our region to the starting blocks and he wants to know what the following steps would be.

Megan shared at the previous TDP AC meeting, the group had discussed having each jurisdiction adopt the plan. Megan asked if this would include just the cities that provide other transportation services, or all cities in the county. JD stated that having each jurisdiction adopt the TDP would likely be a separate project, but

could be the next step. Megan stated that maybe the next step would be coadoption by CTUIR, Milton-Freewater, Hermiston, Pendleton and maybe even Umatilla. Simultaneously, working with all of these jurisdictions to form a governance group. These conversations would also require involvement from a County Commissioner and a member of the CTUIR Board of Trustees.

Krista provided the various options with an advisory board, service district, co-op or Transportation Management Organization (TMO). Some options would require public outreach, but coordinating with elected bodies is vital if a Transportation District is desired, public involvement would be really important.

Megan asked Linda how the City of Pendleton felt about the governance piece, having a joint-board or body. The City of Pendleton is open to this idea, as long as representation from each city was present and there were clear goals especially as it relates to inner city travel.

Linda stated that participation should be weighted by city size. Chair Dutcher shared that ODOT would never allow a county to diminish or eliminate senior/disabled transportation services. Linda shared that her main concern is that Pendleton would not be adequately represented for funding decisions, but she is supportive of the idea.

Rod shared that he works in a lot of different counties, and Umatilla County stands out in the fact that providers are each doing their own thing, whereas in other counties they are all umbrellaed under one group. He agrees with Linda that it is important to make sure every group is represented and heard.

Discussion and Decision:

Krista asked for other questions/comments. Chair Dutcher asked if we are asking for Tribal and City Councils to adopt this plan as well. Megan said that would be after the Board of County Commissioners adopt the plan. JD asked if the jurisdictions adopt the plan in entirety, sections or if there will be an MOU for the jurisdictions to cooperate in the County's efforts for this plan?

Megan agreed that was a good point. In the recent past, the County adopted the Umatilla River Trail Concept Plan. This was a County driven plan, but the west-end cities adopted the plan in entirety. It would likely be up to the adopting jurisdiction and what they feel comfortable adopting.

Staci asked if the transit providers feel that the TDP addresses all of their needs for the future? She asked JD if they are still wanting to upgrade their office space? Same with the west-end bus barn facility? Her question was also posed to Linda.

Linda shared that she hasn't had time to fully review the draft plan. Chair Dutcher asked if the group was supposed to adopt today? Megan responded the UCTAC is asked to provide a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for adoption. Krista shared that if the group wanted to revisit before the adoption hearing, that would be an option.

JD said the plan does address Kayak's needs. It includes the expansion projects, bus stop improvements and improvements to inter and inner-city routes. The plan speaks generally so it is flexible enough for future use.

Chair Dutcher asked if it would be possible to develop a reasonable timeline to get a recommendation before the Board. Megan asked if anyone else needed more time to review the Draft? Chair Dutcher asked for input from the other Transit Providers. Megan shared that the transit providers were on the TDP Advisory Committee, she is willing to reach out to them once more to cover our bases. Today, we were looking for a recommendation from the appointed UCTAC to the Board of Commissioners. Chair Dutcher said that she wants to make sure that everyone has been reached out to regarding the draft plan.

Linda said she could probably look at it by the 16th of May. Megan said the Board of Commissioners is meeting on June 7th, she could try to get on that agenda for adoption. Megan asked if May 22nd or the week of May

15th worked best for the next meeting? Rod has limited availability and will be travelling both of those weeks.

The next UCTAC meeting was scheduled for May 17th at 10AM. This meeting will be for a recommendation for adoption to the Board of County Commissioners.

Other Business: None.

Meeting adjourned at 11:49AM.

Submitted by Megan Davchevski, Umatilla County Transit Coordinator