

Umatilla County Transportation Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton OR 97801 Room 114
Google Meet option
July 21, 2022, 11:00 am

AC Members Present: Teresa Dutcher (retired / transit consultant); Rod Harwood (GOBHI); Linda Carter (City of Pendleton); JD Tovey (CTUIR/Kayak); Kim Beck (U.C. CDDP); Staci Kunz (transit consultant);

AC Members Virtually: Jeremy Umbarger (Clearview Meditation); Jose Garcia (New Horizons); Heidi Zeigler (DHS)

County Liaison: Megan Davchevski (Transit Coordinator)

Public: Darrin Umbarger (CEO, Clearview Meditation)

The Umatilla County Transportation Advisory Committee (UCTAC) was called to order at 11:03 am by Megan Davchevski, TC. Since this is the first UCTAC meeting, Megan led the group.

Roundtable introductions were made. The group acknowledged this is the first UCTAC meeting.

Committee Roles:

Megan provided a brief overview of the UCTAC roles. Since the STF/STIF programs were consolidated at the state level, Umatilla County opted to do the same with their committees and the UCTAC was created. UCTAC is responsible for advising the Umatilla County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on STIF plan projects, discretionary grants and 5310 grants.

Megan provided information on the UCTAC bylaws, these are almost identical to the previous STIF bylaws. Teresa Dutcher assisted with developing them and the BCC adopted the bylaws when the UCTAC was created.

Chair and Vice-Chair Selection:

The AC discussed that both the previous STF Chair (Rod Harwood) and STIF Chair (Teresa Dutcher) are on the UCTAC, both individuals are knowledgeable about the programs. It would be good to have representation from both of the previous committees. JD moved to elect Teresa as the Chair and Rod as the Vice-Chair. Jose seconded. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

Coordinated Human Services Plan:

Megan provided an overview of the County's most recent Coordinated Human Services Plan, last updated in October 2020. A comparison was made between the 2019 population estimates in the plan and the 2020 Census data. There was discussion around the veteran ridership, and how it can be difficult to count riders identifying as veteran, low-income and disabled for many reasons. Kim stated that those with intellectual and developmental disabilities are often forgotten about. Jose shared that we need to do better on informing the Latino population of public transit, and getting more Latino riders. The group looked at Remix and identified areas with higher low-income populations. Suggestions were made for identifying low-income populations like contacting school districts and JD shared that the importance of getting riders on the bus the first time. The hurdle can be unfamiliar with the systems and unknowns regarding safety. Heidi said there have been some talks of a new senior center location in Pendleton, but nothing concrete has been decided.

Discussion continued about the difficulties and areas for growth for rural transit.

High Percentage of Low-Income Households Definition:

Umatilla County's previous STIF definition of *high-percentage of low-income households* was read. Teresa shared the State's definition; the group discussed the differences. Consensus was that the previous STIF definition worked well when evaluating applications.

There was discussion on the 2020 Census data, including the new population numbers by race and income. Census has not released population data by age at this point in time. Megan will keep checking the website.

Kim asked for clarification on how the definition is used. The STIF plan applications that the AC reviews are evaluated and one scored criterion is the level of high-percentage of low-income households that are served. Megan provided an overview of the STIF plan process and timeline, STIF plans are due to ODOT in December of this year. ODOT just released an updated STIF Plan Guidebook, Megan will email this to the group.

Linda moved to adopt the previous Umatilla County STIF definition of *high-percentage of low-income households*, which is, "any geographic area within Umatilla County that exceeds the percentage of low-income households for the state of Oregon as a whole". JD seconded. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

TGM Grant Letter of Support:

Copies of the drafted letter of support were emailed to AC members and were available in the room. The Umatilla County Planning Department is working on a TGM Grant Application to obtain funds to update the County's Transportation System Plan (TSP). Since the County's Transit program is currently working on developing a Transit Development Plan, the timing is very good, and an updated TSP will help future transit projects in the County. The request is to authorize the UCTAC Chair to sign the letter of support.

Kim motioned to authorize the UCTAC Chair to sign the TGM Grant Letter of Support. Linda seconded. Motion passed unanimously 9-0.

Other Business: Megan provided a brief update on the TDP process, the next meeting is August 22. The AC will have to provide a recommendation on the final TDP to the Board of County Commissioners once complete. The next project biennium is near, the estimated funding allocations for the fiscal years 2023-2025 were shared with the group. The County Fair is August 10th-13th, there will be an indoor booth with County Transit information, a sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteer time slots.

Megan will send out the PowerPoint, STIF guidebook and the current STIF plan to the AC members.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm. Submitted by Megan Davchevski, Umatilla County Transit Coordinator