



Monday, March 16th, 2020

**Hood River County Transportation District
Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors
224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031**

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Attendees

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

Staff: Patty Fink, Ty Graves, Amy Schlappi

Leanne Hogie called the March 16th, 2020 Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 2:59 pm.

HRCTD COVID-19 Response Discussion

Leanne Hogie started the discussion by stating the dilemma of providing transportation service, but also protecting staff and the community from COVID-19. It is important the Hood River County Transportation district do what it can to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

Patty Fink summarized the current situation, by highlighting:

- Due to limited health care resources in the county it is important not to overload the system with COVID-19 cases.
- Discussions have occurred with the Union to understand their thoughts about different options.
- As of March 16th, Dial-A-Ride cancellations have cut 6 to 8 hours of service. The Columbia Gorge Express saw about an 80% reduction in ridership, however winter conditions also impacted ridership.
- Large employers who are part of the employer pass program are largely having employees work from home.

Staff described what other transit agencies are doing and recommends that for the short term the following measures are taken:

- Stop operating the Gorge To Mountain Express
- Reduce Columbia Gorge Express and Hood River City Route to peak hours only
- Make the Upper Valley Route Dial-A-Ride only
- Use smaller buses only as they are easier to clean

- Encourage social distancing among riders
- Dispatch staff working at home
- Employees who are at high-risk for COVID-19 have the option to use available Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Participate in the local community emergency response efforts

The Board of Directors discussed at length the recommendations of staff. At the end of the discussion all Board of Directors agreed that the recommendations should be enacted with appropriate communication to the public regarding the changes and that Dial-A-Ride service remain available to the public. Amy Schlappi explained that the changes will be communicated through a service alert, Token Transit App push notification, social media, and the website.

Leanne Hogie ended the meeting at 3:47pm.