Friday, September 11th, 2020
Hood River County Transportation District
Hood River County Coordinated Transportation Plan Advisory Committee
224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
3:30pm – 5:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:
Advisory Committee Members: Kevin Liburdy (City of Hood River), Lexi Stickel (PacificSource CCO), Britta Wilson (Providence Hood River, Volunteers in Action, Aging in the Gorge Alliance), Leti Valle (HRCTD Board Member)
Staff: Patty Fink, Amy Schlappi
Public: Jason Kelly (ODOT), Kathy Fitzpatrick (MCEDD)

Amy Schlappi started the meeting at 5:35pm.

Welcome and Introductions
Amy Schlappi welcomed the group and explained that for the Hood River County Coordinated Transportation Plan Advisory Committee staff combined the Hood River County Transportation District Special Transportation Fund (STF) Committee and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Committee per recommendation by ODOT. Each attendee introduced themselves and explained the entity and population they represent.

Review of CAT and Transportation Services
Amy Schlappi quickly reviewed the different services provided by Columbia Area Transit (CAT). She reviewed the different services that CAT provides and showed a map detailing the service area.

Overview of the Hood River County Coordinated Transportation Plan Update
Amy discussed the purpose of the Coordinated Transportation Plan Update by highlighting:
- That Coordinated plan which addresses the needs of seniors, disabled individuals, low-income individuals, and Limited English Proficiency individuals is a requirement of our federal and state funding.
- The plan must be consistent and coordinated with any other required plans that the Hood River County Transportation District has including the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan, and the Transit Master Plan.
- The plan must highlight how our services are coordinated with other local and regional services and updated every three year.

Amy also explained that our 2016 Coordinated plan should have been updated last year, but CAT was granted an extension by ODOT due to service expansion occurring in 2019.

She then highlighted the priorities that were identified in the 2016 plan and the services or changes that have been implemented since the plan was adopted.

She also outlined the different requirements of a Coordinated Transportation Plan including:
- o Updated demographic data
- o Engagement of stakeholders
- o An Inventory of current Public Transportation services
- o Identification of transportation challenges and gaps in existing services
- o Identification of coordination opportunities with stakeholders and other transportation providers
- o A prioritized list of Public Transportation Needs and Projects

Discuss Community Feedback Collected

Amy explained that since the community outreach portion began near the onset of COVID-19 there were challenges reaching target populations for feedback. She reviewed the ways in which staff has engaged the community, including**:**
- Rider surveys
- Interviews with Community Stakeholders
- Community Meetings
- Organizations invited to participate

Priorities for the Next 3 Years

The transportation challenges and gaps in existing services identified by target populations, representative agencies, and transportation agencies fell into four categories. Those four categories were: information, services, capital, and coordination. She went through each individual category and asked committee members to add anything they felt was missing and to place topics in the order that they felt staff should focus on. There was a large amount of discussion regarding the priorities and the appropriate order they should be focused on.

The group created the below prioritized list Public Transportation Needs and Projects:
Information:
- Bus stop locations
  - o Route schedule information at the bus stops
- Safety
  - o Covid-19 & Transportation (Transportation is safe – communicate)
  - o Safe and welcome for everyone (no racism, or incidents towards specific demographics)
- Outreach
  - o Communication of public transportation services available
  - o Extensive outreach and partnership with Latino, Native American, and Veteran Communities (different for each population – local and regional)
  - o Increase ridership and awareness of Student and Low-Income fare programs

- Language barrier
- Comfortability of making transfers/ travel training

Services:
- Extended operating hours (evenings, weekends)
  - DAR
  - City Route/ UV
  - Ability to do evening activities
- Expanded access to senior services
  - Adult center
  - Hawks Ridge/One Community Health (back side across street from Hawks Ridge)
- Ongoing funding for HWY 35 services
  - Upper Valley Route frequency
- Access to medical services
  - Portland
  - The Dalles
- Community shuttle in Cascade Locks
- Additional stops in The Dalles (closer to downtown)
- Other vulnerable population transportation services
- Training/Internship program within target population communities
  - Posting of job opportunities

Capital:
- Permanent shelters, seats, and signs at bus stops
- Stop accessibility
  - Partnership with city and county to implement
  - Multi-Modal system
- Improved and more efficient dispatching technology
- Fleet Sustainability
  - Fleet Electrification
- Facility Expansion – Coordinated with low income, senior, disabled housing facilities

Coordination:
- Transportation Alliances
  - Gorge TransLink Alliance
    - Link/CAT
    - Skamania/Klickitat/CAT
  - Mt. Hood Transportation Alliance
  - Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)
- Employers, Tourism & Businesses
- Multi-Modal transportation options
- Coordinate local and regional planning processes
  - Transit Master Plan
  - Coordinate on transportation outreach surveys and questionnaires

Next Steps

Amy Schlappi will send out a Doodle Poll for the next Advisory Committee meeting which will be the beginning of October. The goal for this meeting is to review the strategies created to staff to address the identified priorities.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03pm.