



Friday, December 4, 2020
Hood River County Transportation District
STF/STIF Committee Meeting
224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
3:30pm – 5:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members: Kevin Liburdy (City of Hood River Planning Department), Rita Rathkey (Opportunity Connections), Leti Valle (HRCTD), Rob Brostoff (HRCTD)

Ex Officio Members: Brad Houghton (MCEDD)

Staff: Patty Fink, Amy Schlappi

Welcome & Introductions

Amy welcomed the group, and everyone briefly introduced themselves.

Committee Responsibility

Amy reminded the group that the HRCTD Board made the decision to combine the Special Transportation Fund (STF) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) committees at the September Board Meeting to align with ODOT's 2019 action of combining the two programs. HRCTD Board Members will be creating a new set of Bylaws by combining the Bylaws for the original STF and STIF committees to reflect this change.

Confirm STIF Discretionary & Statewide Network Funding Projects

Amy reviewed the three STIF Discretionary & Statewide Network Funding Project that was directly applied for by CAT or where the agency is part of the application. Committee members were given detailed information on each project in their meeting materials. Patty clarified that the STIF Discretionary & Statewide Network Funds must be applied for through ODOT and different than STIF Project funds which have already been allocated to CAT and staff is required to submit a plan as to how that money will be spent.

Committee Members voted to approve the three projects and ranked them by staff recommended priority levels. Committee Members felt all projects were related and were needed for the region.

- Priority 1: Columbia Gorge Express
- Priority 2: Gorge Translink Alliance Mobility Management Project
- Priority 3: Regional Marketing

STIF Poverty Threshold for Hood River County

Amy stated that Committee Members must confirm the poverty threshold for Hood River County. Through the previous STIF plan "communities with a high percentage of low-income



households” were defined as Census Block Groups within the County that have 30% or more households with an income level that is 200% or less of the federal poverty standards. Since there have been no significant changes to how the low-income poverty rate is tracked since 2018 when this definition was approved staff is recommending that the committee approves this same definition.

The group discussed the map and table from the 2017 American Community Survey that were used to help identify which Census Block Group Tracts includes 30% or more of households with an income level that is 200% or less of the federal poverty standards. There were a couple of discrepancies on the map that staff will fix and send out to committee members with the meeting minutes.

Patty explained that ODOT would like us to set a threshold by looking at areas with a high poverty rate and decide where there should be a focus. The committee could choose to define the entire county as a poverty threshold, however the reason you would not want to do that is because you may find it beneficial to focus on providing more service to communities with a higher poverty rate and give additional attention to it. By lowering the threshold, you do not dilute service, but you dilute how you spend those dollars first.

Committee Members did not have any concerns with the staff recommendation and confirmed the poverty rate threshold for Hood River County as Census Block Groups within the County that have 30% or more households with an income level that is 200% or less of the federal poverty standards.

STIF Project Formula Available & Projected Funds

Amy reviewed the STIF Project Formula Funds and discussed how these are funds allocated to the agency by the state automatically at the beginning of each quarter. The agency must report at the end of the quarter how the funds were spent. She reviewed the current progress of the 6 projects that were part of the FY19-21 STIF plan. The projects and the progress made were detailed in the meeting materials provided to Committee Members before the meeting. COVID-19 impacted most of these projects to some degree. It is important to note that before COVID-19 impacted services the City Route was trending to double the ridership numbers from the previous year.

The group discussed the STIF FY 19-21 Project list which showed the money allocation per project and the funds remaining which will be carried over and used for the STIF FY 21-23 Projects.

Additional STIF Projects for 2021

Amy reviewed the list of priorities that were compiled and agreed upon during the Coordinated Transportation Plan Update process. Several of the objectives can be achieved by applying for funds through different funding sources or use resources already exist. Other objectives would make more sense to be included as STIF FY 21-23 Projects.



The group discussed the potential projects as highlighted by staff for STIF FY21-23 funds, which included suggested fund allocations for service and ongoing projects and new other projects. The fund allocations were based on allocation estimates provided by ODOT.

- ❖ Staff will send easy to read versions of the two graphs reviewed during the meeting to Committee Members.

At this point staff would like the STF/STIF Committee to review the potential projects highlighted for STIF FY21-23 funds and before the next meeting in early January to suggest additional projects or any changes they think should be made. At the January meeting Committee Members will approve the project list and recommend that the HRCTD approve the STIF Plan.

The group agreed that the next meeting should occur on Friday, January 8th at 3:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33pm.