



Wednesday, December 7th, 2022
Hood River County Transportation District
STIF Advisory Committee Meeting

224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
4:00pm – 5:00pm
Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order:

Amy called the Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF) Advisory Committee to order at 4:06 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Amy took roll call. Committee members Kevin Liburdy (City of Hood River Planning Department), Lexi Stickel (PacificSource), Taylor Engel (Providence Dethman House), and Ivy Collins (Hood River High School Student) were in attendance.

Ex Officio Members: Kathy Fitzpatrick (MCEDD)

Staff: Amy Schlappi

Absent: Leti Moretti, Rachelle Begay

3. Confirm STIF Discretionary & Statewide Network Funding Projects

Amy reviewed the three STIF Discretionary & Statewide Transit Network Funding Project applications that were either directly applied for by CAT or CAT was a partner organization. Committee members were given detailed information on each project in their meeting materials. The staff recommended approving the applications in the following priority order:

Priority 1: Columbia Gorge Express Intercity Service

Priority 2: Intelligent Information Systems

Priority 3: Gorge Regional Transit Network: Inclusive Outreach and Education Project

There was a brief discussion about not having The Link be a part of the Intelligent Information Systems project and whether that would impact the effectiveness of the project or cause operational issues. While it could have been very beneficial to have The Link be a part of the project, staff do not feel that it will negatively impact riders or cause operational issues. This will give CAT the opportunity to pilot these different programs and then share with the other Gorge Translink providers best practices.

Motion: Kevin made a motion to approve the three projects and ranked them by staff recommended priority order. The motion was seconded by Lexi.

Approved by: Kevin, Lexi, Taylor, Ivy

Opposed by: None



4. STIF Poverty Threshold for Hood River County

Amy reminded committee members that they must determine what percentage of low-income individuals in a specific geographic area is required to be considered a “high percentage of low-income households”. Low-Income Household is defined by a household total income which does not exceed 200% of the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C 9902(2) for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia. In 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.

Amy explained that for the 23-25 Biennium ODOT recommended staff use a different tool than the last biennium to determine the poverty threshold of each census block group. The specific data set used takes more into account than just the percentage of individuals who reside in the block group that earn a household income of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or less. Staff recommends reducing the poverty threshold to 15% or more of households in a Census Block Group with an income level that is 200% or less of the federal poverty standards.

The group discussed the different graphs depicting the changes and what impacts there may be on the community to lower the percentage of the poverty threshold. Amy and Valerie both stated that this change would not negatively impact the community but have a positive impact to ensure that STIF funds can be used to provide services to these communities.

Motion: Taylor made a motion to define communities with a “high percentage of low-income households” Census Block Groups within the County that have 15% or more households with an income level that is 200% or less of the federal poverty standards. The motion was seconded by Kevin.

Approved by: Kevin, Lexi, Taylor, Ivy

Opposed by: None

5. STIF 23-25 Biennium Projects

Amy reviewed the STIF Project Formula Funds and discussed how these funds are allocated to the agency by the state based on a formula. These funds are received on a quarterly basis, the district must report on how these funds are used at the end of the quarter. She explained that ODOT recommends that STIF advisory committees approve more than 100% of the estimated funds for STIF projects. If the committee does not approve of a higher amount, they cannot use those funds even if they are available.

The group discussed allocating funds that may not come in and if that could impact service. Amy explained that staff carefully watches the money received to ensure that the district is not putting more service on the road than funds available.



Amy discussed the Oregon Public Transportation Plan Policies and Goals which the proposed projects aim to meet. She reviewed each proposed project, the project description, the Oregon Public Transportation Goals met, and allocated funds.

There was a discussion of outreach done to vulnerable community members and if there are funds available to expand services for vulnerable community members.

Staff recommended that the projects be prioritized in the following order:

4,7,2,1,6,8,3,5

Motion: Lexi made a motion to approve the staff recommended project priority and recommend that the board approve the STIF Project List. The motion was seconded by Taylor.

Approved by: Kevin, Lexi, Taylor, Ivy

Opposed by: None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm.