



Wednesday, November 19th, 2025
Board of Directors of the Hood River County Transportation District
Public Hearing – Fare Change

224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
4:00 p.m. – 4:10 p.m.

Public Hearing Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Greg Pack called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Tiah took roll call: Greg Pack - Board Chair, Megan Ramey - Board Vice Chair, Tamra Taylor - Board Secretary/Treasurer, Gisela Ayala-Echeverria, Matt Althoff, Jim Klaas

Absent: Eleazar Reyes

Staff: Amy Schlappi, Jeff Acciaioli, Tiah Mayhew, Tim Ravins

Public: None

3. Public Comment

Amy read one public comment from a social media post suggesting a dedicated pass for the Gorge-To-Mountain route.

4. Proposed Fare Change for the Gorge-To-Mountain Express – Amy Schlappi

This meeting marks the second of two required public hearings to consider a proposed fare adjustment for the Gorge-to-Mountain Express service—from the current \$5.00 round-trip to a \$5.00 one-way fare. The Gorge Transit Pass would continue to be an eligible fare on the Gorge-To-Mountain Express service. Board Members are asked to review and discuss the proposal as a formal decision will be needed.

As discussed at the previous public hearing, Amy mentioned Cascades East Transit's fare for their bus route to Mt. Bachelor is \$7 one way or \$12 round-trip. They also offer a \$299 season pass. The scope change request through FHWA was approved, ensuring FLAP grant funding will support the service for the next three years. No Gorge-To-Mountain Express season pass will be implemented this year, as it requires a separate public hearing process and will not be completed prior to the start of the season. If the Board is interested in a season pass for the 2026/2027 season, discussion should start in July. Matt had a question about how the public would view fare increases over the next couple of seasons and if data would be available comparing Gorge Passes to single fares. The new dispatch software should give this information. There was general discussion regarding the Gorge Pass as an eligible fare for the Gorge-To-Mountain Service. Overall



word of mouth comments have been supportive of the fare being increased to \$5 one way.

Motion: Megan made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Tamra.

Approved by: Greg, Megan, Tamra, Gisela, Matt and Jim

Opposed by: None

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 4:17PM.



**Wednesday, November 19th, 2025
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the Hood River County Transportation District**

**224 Wasco Loop, Board Conference Room
Hood River, OR 97031
4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Greg Pack called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 4:22 PM.

2. Roll Call

Tiah took roll call: Greg Pack - Board Chair, Megan Ramey - Board Vice Chair, Tamra Taylor - Board Secretary/Treasurer, Gisela Ayala-Echeverria, Matt Althoff, Jim Klaas

Absent: Eleazar Reyes

Staff: Amy Schlappi, Jeff Acciaioli, Tiah Mayhew, Tim Ravins

Public: Jovi Arellano – Oregon Department of Transportation

3. Approval of October 15th, 2025, Public Hearing & Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Greg asked if there were any changes that the Board would like to make to the October meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were included in the Board meeting materials. No changes were requested.

Motion: Megan made a motion to approve the Public Hearing and October 15th Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Gisela.

Approved by: Greg, Megan, Tamra, Gisela, Matt and Jim

Opposed by: None

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Monthly Financial Report – Tiah Mayhew

The financial reports were included in the meeting materials. The Q1 grant reimbursements have been submitted and the Board will receive the new biennium grant tracker at next month's meeting. Tiah informed the Board that Umpqua Bank had merged with Columbia Bank. During the merger Columbia Bank automatically sent the district a debit card that was linked to the operating account. Staff have opted out of a debit card option so upon receiving the card it was believed to be an updated credit card. It was discovered that it was not a credit card and the debit card was destroyed. The charges that were made with the debit card were documented and approved. Staff



wanted to notify the board as the use of a debit card is not included in the Financial Management Policy.

6. Resolutions & Action Items – Amy Schlappi

a. Gorge-To-Mountain Express Fare Change

There was no further discussion on the proposed Gorge-to-Mountain Express fare increase.

Motion: Tamra made a motion to approve the Gorge-To-Mountain Express fare change. The motion was seconded by Megan.

Approved by: Greg, Megan, Tamra, Gisela, Matt and Jim

Opposed by: None

b. Port of Hood River - CAT IGA Review

As mentioned in previous Board meetings, CAT and the Port of Hood River staff worked together over the past several months to create a draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between CAT and the Port of Hood River for the development of the inter-regional transit facility on port property. Staff are asking Board members to review the IGA and provide staff with guidance on key elements. Port of Hood River Board Members conducted a similar exercise within the last few days, then the staff of both organizations will review comments to refine the final IGA hopefully for adoption at the December CAT Board meeting.

Amy continued with some of the key elements of the IGA, that the board should be aware of and discuss. No action is needed at this time and Amy will use suggestions from the Boards's discussion when moving forward with the IGA. The topics include:

Advertising & Branding Controls: How much control should CAT maintain for sold advertising at the transit hub? Matt had a question if this would affect the lease price and to Amy's knowledge it would not. In general board members felt it best for CAT to maintain advertising and branding control.

First Right of Refusal for CAT – Kiosk and Facility Space: The draft IGA provides CAT right-of-first refusal on the space if the lease expires or the Port decides to sell or redevelop the property. Greg and Matt had some questions about the language used in the agreement and the group feels that having CAT's lawyer review the language to allow for some flexibility would be the ideal situation.

Cost-Sharing for Shared Off-Site Improvements: The IGA calls for proportional cost-sharing for improvements that benefit both parties outside the lease area (e.g., utilities, sidewalks, stormwater, roadway access). Should CAT require a cost allocation framework to be defined now or evaluated on a case-by-case basis? Megan prefers to define now as there may be some large improvements made to the area in the future. Amy read the cost-sharing section of the IGA, which is included in the memo. Jim had a question about an example of an improvement that doesn't benefit CAT? Greg brought



up a possible notice provision regarding timeframe, giving CAT time to plan for long-term budgeting and to ask for some examples of what they're considering as shared improvements.

Long-Term Termination & Relocation: If the Port terminates for convenience, it must cover federal repayment and relocation to an equivalent site.

Public Restrooms & Maintenance: Maintenance responsibilities for public amenities remain to be finalized (trash, restrooms, snow removal). Amy mentioned that currently CAT does not have restrooms in our grant, and potential cost share or exchange of landscape maintenance for rent. The group discussed current restrooms in the Port area and future restroom maintenance scenarios and were generally supportive of cost sharing.

c. Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District - CAT IGA Review

CAT and Hood River Valley Parks and Recreation District (HRVPRD) staff over the past several months have worked together with ODOT staff to understand if there is a way that CAT could act as a pass-through agency to distribute funds from ODOT to HRVPRD for the Community Pathways Grant. The purpose of this discussion is for Board to review the draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between CAT and the Hood River Valley Parks & Recreation District (HRVPRD) and provide staff with guidance on key elements. CAT staff will bring guidance back to HRVPRD and legal counsel for refinement before a final IGA adoption at a future Board meeting. No action is required at this time. Staff request that the Board discuss the IGA and ensure that the Board has all the information they need. An updated IGA will be brought to the Board at the December meeting for consideration.

Amy stated that with this IGA CAT will become a pass-through agency to give funds from ODOT to HRVPRD. Amy asked if the Board feels okay with this. Most Board members feel that as a one-off scenario and helping a community partner warrants the need. There was some further discussion about the administrative fee of \$2,500, and Matt asked if CAT was losing money for billable hours to our CPA or for legal advice. He also wants to ensure there are no risks for CAT. Amy did reply that our CPA's recommendations are included in the memo notes and that she would send the recommendations from this meeting to CAT's lawyer. The Board asked that an email from ODOT approving the process in addition to an existing ODOT document approving the transfer of funds be received before funds are distributed. Jovi echoed some of Matt's concerns, advising that CAT should get reimbursed before distributing funds, and thanked CAT for the assistance with correcting an error from Parks and ODOT.

7. Operations Manager Report – Jeff Acciaioli

a. Performance Report

October's overall safety score remains at 99. Fuel costs for the month were about the same as the previous month. CAT had two formal customer complaints, one vehicle



incident, five customer incidents and one vandalism. Jeff then gave some details of the vehicle incident that occurred at 11th & Pine St bus stop. The city route bus clipped a parked car's bumper. The stop can be hard to access if a car is parked in a particular parking spot. Jeff continued with some details of customer incidents

b. Employee of the Month

Dennis Bloom has been named CAT's Employee of the Month.

c. Ridership

Dial-A-Ride has continued to see an increase in ridership. Upper Valley saw a small increase in ridership after a dip in ridership over the last couple of months.

d. Gorge-To-Mountain Express Update

Currently CAT is understaffed for drivers. CAT is working hard to hire new drivers and has increased social media posts advertising open positions. There have been eight interviews recently. Of the eight, one has been hired full-time, and two hired for part-time positions. Two to three more full-time hires are needed for full service. Pending mountain conditions, the plan is to start the Gorge-To-Mountain Express service with a reduced schedule, running the route Saturday and Sunday only with no night services. Greg asked about the advertising of the reduced service. CAT will begin with website updates, and then social media posts. Amy is still considering some different options for notifying the public as service levels are expected to increase. Jim had a question about hiring and if CAT keeps a pool of potential candidates. There were a few but they have already been contacted.

8. Executive Director Report – Amy Schlappi

a. Oregon Transit Association Conference Review

Amy recently attended the Oregon Transit Association conference where she presented and was reelected to their Board. Some popular topics at the conference were non-emergent medical transportation, the special legislative funding session, and coordination of different transit agencies.

b. National RTAP Conference

Jeff and Amy will be attending the upcoming Rural Transit Assistance Program conference. Amy has attended the conference previously and is looking forward to networking with other rural transit providers.

c. Staffing Update

Rebecca Villanueva Cortez has been promoted from Dispatcher to Field Supervisor.

d. FLAP Update

The memorandum of agreement has been signed with FHWA for FLAP funding and currently we are waiting for the final contract.



9. Discussion Items

Megan met an author who has documented rural transit in Oregon, and they expressed interest in reaching out to CAT. The recent presence of ICE agents in the area was also touched on; Amy is consulting with MCEDD and a lawyer to give employees more direction. A Bistate Bridge Authority planning open house for the interstate bridge improvements is happening Thurs. Dec 4th at The Hampton Inn.

11. Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Day – No Service & Reduced service on Friday 11/28, the Hood River Holiday Parade and tree lighting is December 5th, and the CAT Holiday Party is scheduled for December 12th. ODOT is also providing a general Board member training seminar on December 8th, Amy will email with more details. Amy also has a meeting with Maxine Dexter on schedule.

12. Adjournment

Motion: Megan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tamra.

Approved by: Greg, Megan, Tamra, Gisela, Matt and Jim

Opposed by: None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19.

The Hood River County Transportation District Board of Directors meeting minutes are prepared and presented in summary form. Video recordings of the meetings are on file at CAT and are part of the approved minutes. If you would like to watch the recording of the meeting, please contact Tim Ravins tim@catransit.org, or call (541) 386-4202.

Prepared by: Tim Ravins, Administrative Assistant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Ravins", with a stylized, flowing script.

Approved by: Tamra Taylor, Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamra Taylor", with a stylized, flowing script.