

Gorge TransLink Alliance

August Meeting Notes

August 10, 2016
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm
The Dalles Transit Center
Conference Room
802 Chenoweth Loop Road
The Dalles, OR 97058

Attending: Deanna Bisbee, Columbia Area Transit; Rich Eberle, MCCOG; Arlene Johnson, Skamania County Community Transit; Via phone: Ron Nails, Columbia Area Transit; Colleen Kuhn, Human Services Council, Shamus Misek, WSDOT, Hiep Tran, WSDOT, Christine West, ODOT, Joni Bramlett, ODOT. Michele Spatz, staff

Notes for June 2016 Meeting – See Attachment A

The notes from the June meeting were accepted as presented.

Connect Mid-Columbia Rescheduled

Michele explained that the Connect Mid-Columbia meeting was rescheduled due to the lack of availability for those invited. There just wasn't enough lead time for people to get this on their calendar. The meeting was rescheduled and will be held in conjunction with the next Gorge TransLink Alliance meeting on Wednesday, October 12th. The focus of the October Connect Mid-Columbia meeting will be to more fully understand the needs and priorities of the Gorge TransLink Alliance members. These needs and priorities will be folded into the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region that MCEDD will be submitting to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Having projects identified in the CEDS submitted to the EDA opens them up to other funding streams. Michele noted that the Connect Mid-Columbia meeting is a face-to-face meeting only and no conference call capability will be offered. There will be conference call capability for the October Gorge TransLink Alliance meeting. These should be viewed as separate but back-to-back meetings.

Transit Asset Management (TAM)

Christine West, Capital Program Coordinator, ODOT and Hiep Tran, TAM Expert, WSDOT, joined our meeting to explain the implications of the recent Transit Asset Management final rule. Christine explained that ODOT will soon release a website with a TAM timeline for Oregon transit providers. ODOT will enter performance targets before January 2017 and then will be required to report on these targets, which will be updated annually. She noted that Tier 2 providers includes all rural providers – thus the Oregon Gorge TransLink Alliance members.

ODOT has 18 months to develop a group Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and will hire a consultant to complete this task. It's likely the TAMP will be completed in May 2018 for review and public comment with adoption by September 2018. The plan will cover a 4-5 year period and will be designed to coincide with the STIP cycle. Christine highlighted one requirement will be that each agency must designate an "Accountable Executive" – someone on staff who makes both Human Resources and financial decisions and can help troubleshoot when there are problems with agency asset management.

She noted that all transit agencies will enter their assets into the National Transit Database by October 2017. ODOT will provide training. She pointed out that in regards to facilities' assets,

bus barns are not included. For 2018 reporting, asset conditions will need to include a descriptive narrative on each asset's condition.

Lastly, Christine outlined the four elements of a Transit Asset Management Plan: inventory; condition; decision support tools (this can be a spreadsheet); investment prioritization.

Hiep Tran, WSDOT, explained that Washington state has had a Transit Asset Management program in place since 2005. WSDOT is already in 75% compliance with MAP 21, so implementing the TAM final rule won't be a heavy lift. The new requirements call for inventory, lowest life cycle cost, preventive maintenance and a maintained record system. The final rule MAP 21 additional requirements call for: state of good repair; a performance-based planning process; safety and security.

Hiep noted each transit agency must write their own TAM plan for vehicle maintenance. WSDOT is putting together a Performance Analysis team that will look at the federal and state requirements and marry them. He thinks nonprofit agency requirements will stay the same. Transit agencies will need to incorporate the three additional requirements. There will be a state partners meeting in Leavenworth in October to work this out.

WSDOT Consolidated Grants & Regional Mobility Grants

Arlene asked when the WSDOT grants for the FY 2017/19 funding cycle would be due and when the grant applications would be released. Shamus Misek responded the grants will be due October 14, 2016 and will likely be released in the next week or two. WSDOT will offer a training webinar and there will also be a grants help desk staffed by our Community Liaisons at the Washington State Annual Public Transportation Conference in Wenatchee in September.

Preparing for Connect Mid-Columbia Meeting – Transit Priorities Discussion

Meeting participants reviewed the transit providers list of priorities they developed early last spring for any additions, changes or deletions. The updated Gorge TransLink Alliance priorities list is included at the end of these meeting notes. Michele explained that we will revisit this list again in October prior to the Connect Mid-Columbia meeting. We need to be prepared to discuss our priority items in depth at the Connect Mid-Columbia meeting. Transit providers in Skamania, Klickitat, Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties are urged to attend in person the October 12 Connect Mid-Columbia meeting that will follow our regularly scheduled Gorge TransLink Alliance meeting.

Funding/Training Opportunities:

Free Webinar - Transit Asset Management - TAM Final Rule - Small Systems Focus

Thursday, August 18, 2016 11:00 AM - 12:30PM Pacific Time

Register at: <http://bit.ly/2b8tkPW>

This webinar will have a Small Operator Focus on the FTA's National Transit Asset Management System Final Rule. A Small Operator has approximately 100 vehicles or less. The focus will be on how small transit providers can comply with the rule. If you sign up for the webinar, they will send you a link to the PPT and recording of the presentation afterwards.

Transit asset management lays out a strategic approach to maintaining capital assets based on careful planning and improved decision-making, such as reviewing inventories and setting

performance targets and budgets to achieve state of good repair goals. The rule, required under MAP-21 legislation, is intended to close the gap on aging and poorly maintained transit assets.

NADTC Innovations in Accessible Mobility Grant Applicants Grant

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center is inviting applications for development of program innovations that increase accessible transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities and maximize the utilization of Section 5310 and other federal funding investments. This new grant program is intended to support program innovations that increase accessible transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities and maximize the utilization of Section 5310 and other federal funding investments. Local and regional private nonprofit or government organizations are invited to apply for this funding opportunity. Grants of up to \$50,000 each will be awarded to as many as six communities for a twelve month period.

Applications due August 26, 2016.

Arlene reported she attended a webinar on the NADTC Innovations grant. They noted applicants must describe how they identified seniors and disabled individuals' transit needs and how they included the target audiences throughout their process. Applicants cannot simply expand current service but must come up with an innovative idea and be able to explain how what they are proposing is innovative and how the innovation is relevant to their target population. For example, development of some type of Transit App may be innovative but not if seniors and the disabled won't use it.

Announcements

Transit-oriented Development (TOD) website: <https://todresources.org/>

The Federal Transportation Administration announced its new transit-oriented development (TOD) website: <https://todresources.org/>.

The website is an online hub for national information and ideas designed to help users develop outstanding Transit-oriented Development projects for their communities. The new site includes a dynamic database of leading research on TOD, information about funding and financing options for TOD projects, and opportunities for TOD professionals to connect with one another. Anyone interested in TOD can join the project's mailing list to get news about new resources and opportunities. (7-7-16)

Washington State 40th Annual Public Transportation Conference in Wenatchee, WA, September 18 – 21.

The conference's theme is: *Community Engagement – Local Solutions – Statewide Investments*. Registration is now open. Visit the Conference website at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Transit/Conference/>

Arlene Johnson, Sophie Miller, Colleen Kuhn and Michele Spatz all plan to attend the conference.

Next Meeting

1 min.

October 12, 2016 (Wednesday) from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Gorge TransLink Alliance starting at 3:00pm followed by Connect Mid-Columbia meeting. Exact meeting times and location forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm for a tour of The Dalles Transit Center.

August 10, 2016

Gorge TransLink Alliance*

Infrastructure & Service Priorities

- Hood River Bridge: Replacement [a top priority of the Klickitat County Regional Transportation Council.]
- Skamania County - Bus Garage.
- Skamania County – Extend public transit Eastward from Skamania County.
- Klickitat County – Provide week-end transportation service.
- Gorge TransLink Alliance: Vehicle replacement
- Gorge TransLink Alliance: Shuttle service to promote tourism and recreation, an economic driver, e.g. funding for daily bus/transit from Portland into the Gorge.
- Gorge TransLink Alliance: Additional transportation funding to fully support NEMT (specifically Medicaid) including pharmacy trips; employment, medical, shopping and other essential services
- Gorge TransLink Alliance: Volunteer driver program development

*The Gorge TransLink Alliance is composed of transportation service providers in Skamania, Klickitat counties (WA) and Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties (OR).