

# Appendix A - Gorge TransLink Alliance

## December Meeting Notes

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**December 17, 2015**  
**3:00 pm - 4:30 pm**  
**MCEDD Conference Room**  
**515 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**The Dalles, OR 97058**

Attending: Deanna Bisbee, Joni Bramlett, Karyn Criswell, BJ Jacobson, Arlene Johnson, , Shamus Misek, Norma Pickett, Dan Schwanz

**Notes for October Meeting** – The revised notes were accepted as presented.

### **Washington Statewide Public Transportation Plan**

Shamus Misek, WSDOT Community Liaison, SW Washington Region, directed participants to the information sent out in the meeting packet. WSDOT and its transportation partners are asking for public input into the draft Washington Statewide Public Transportation Plan which will guide decisions over the next 20 years. He said a multi-faceted outreach campaign is underway that includes, print, media, in-person and social media engagement. WSDOT wants public input to make sure they are on the right path to move transportation forward and to that end, the plan addresses both current and future needs. The Plan itself is the result of a two-year collaboration between the public and private sectors. WSDOT is using a very broad definition of public transportation, which Shamus shared is: "any form of transportation that is accessible and available to the public that does not involve a single person in a motorized vehicle." The plan is conceived as a partnership and as such, WSDOT recognizes they may not be the lead on all aspects of the plan but may serve another role, such as a technical advisor, for example. The plan encompasses six primary themes: defines public transportation very broadly; emphasizes positive customer experience; acknowledges widespread innovation as critical to meeting transportation needs; advances the state's interest in supporting public transportation and advocates for an integrated and performance-based transportation system. Shamus emphasized that all comments will be reviewed and revisions to the draft plan will begin in January and be based upon the public comments received. Interested individuals can take the public input survey on the project website (<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Transit/TransportationPlan>) by clicking on "Take the Questionnaire" on the left-hand menu. You may also contact the project consultant by phone at 206-462-6357, snail mail (1501 Fourth Ave, Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98216) or email (ShannSa@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov) on or before January 5, 2016.

Discussion followed regarding bi-state Medicaid transportation. It was thought people traveling from Washington state to Oregon for care are not reimbursed because Washington State regulations require them to receive care in-state. BJ clarified that the issue is finding a medical provider in Oregon who accepts Medicaid. In regards to the Portland metro area, it was pointed out that OHSU will give preference to Oregon residents even though it would be closer for many Washington residents want to receive care there. With managed care, physicians may not have signed on to accept Medicaid patients. As a result, a lot of Washington Medicaid transport has to go to Seattle. Dan Schwanz noted that MCCOG's brokerage provides a lot of Medicaid trips for Oregon citizens traveling to the Tri-Cities, Washington, for care and these trips are reimbursed.

Karyn asked about the inclusion of the bi-state nature of transportation in the draft Plan and Shamus indicated this is not included in the plan at this point and is encouraging everyone to comment on this. We need to acknowledge the great need for regional coordination and a bi-state approach to transportation services.

Shamus noted it is ok for Oregonians to comment on the Washington draft plan.

### **ODOT 2016 STF Discretionary Grants**

Karyn Criswell, ODOT Region 1 Transportation Coordinator, provided a brief update on the STF funds submission process and noted that the applications have been released to the STF agencies. Non-profit agencies may apply but they must do so through an STF agency. The STF agency must prioritize the projects they submit for funding. The applications are due mid-March. The purpose of the STF Discretionary Grants is to improve transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities and can be used for transit operations, capital equipment, travel information, planning and federal match. No match is required.

Information on additional Grant funding, e.g. 5339 and 5310 will be released in January.

Karyn announced that the priority for 5339 Funds will be for replacement vehicles. If there is money left, ODOT will consider funding expansion vehicles. Dan asked if ODOT will enforce the age and mileage rules for vehicle replacement funding. Karyn responded the age and mileage standards must meet the federal requirements. Although the FAST Act has not had rules written yet, these funds will most likely carry the same standards as MAP-21.

### **ODOT Region 1 Transportation Studies**

Karyn Criswell, ODOT Region 1 Transportation Coordinator, briefly discussed the Gorge Transit Planning Study. The goal of this effort is to provide new travel options between east Multnomah County, the Columbia River Gorge and Gorge recreation sites, and to enhance mobility and safety. The consultant, Nelson Nygaard, completed focus group meetings recently and is now preparing a summary of those meetings. They are also preparing a project website and this should be up soon. They are very pleased with the quality and quantity of the participation in the stakeholder interviews. A project stakeholder survey is scheduled to be released online on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> and will be open through the rest of the month of January. Karyn asked Gorge TransLink Alliance members to push the survey out, once it's released, to our community members and networks.

Karyn also noted the recent kick-off meeting of the Historic Columbia River Scenic Highway Collaborative which has convened as an Oregon Solutions project designed to focus on short-term (by June 2016) solutions to congestion & safety issues along the Historic Highway and the I-84 Interchange at Multnomah Falls. MCEDD's Mobility Manager is serving on this project team.

Lastly, Karyn noted that in the Gorge Tourism Studio, which gets underway in earnest in January 2016, transportation is coming up as an important issue. Information and registration for the Gorge Tourism Studio may be found here: <http://bit.ly/1mylZOc>.

### **Status Gorge TransLink Alliance Promotional Videos**

MCEDD's Mobility Manager inquired about the progress on the promotional videos being filmed and edited by Katie Gullans, under contract with the Human Services Council as part of their 1-Call/1-Click Transportation Resource Center. Sharon noted that Klickitat County's video needs revision. BJ informed the group that Katie's last day with the Human Services Council is next Tuesday, Dec. 22, so it's important to make suggestions right away. BJ state that email is the best way to connect with Katie and agreed to send Katie's email address and phone number to Sharon for follow-up. Arlene noted that Skamania County Community Transit was filmed and she is happy with their film. Michele shared the Gorge TransLink Alliance video is complete and the final version has been received. She is very pleased with it and noted it will be posted on the Gorge TransLink Alliance website in January 2016.

### **Mobility Manager Update**

15 min.

Michele reported on the following:

- **Connect Mid-Columbia Meeting**  
The meeting, scheduled for Dec. 3, was postponed due to icy road conditions as participants were coming from Portland/Vancouver, Bend and the Columbia River Gorge. The meeting is rescheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup> with the purpose of discussing regional transportation priorities for inclusion in MCEDD's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) annual update that it submits to the EDA.
- **Mt. Hood Transportation Options Stakeholders Meeting**  
Timberline Lodge, Mt Hood Ski Bowl and The Resort at The Mountain staff, Clackamas County's Mt. Hood Express (MHX) staff , Karyn Criswell, ODOT Region 1 Regional Transportation Coordinator & MCEDD's Mobility Manager met in Welches on December 16 to discuss promotion of two transportation options to the Mountain: the MHX and Drive Less Connect. The Mobility Manager is working with PacWest on promotion/outreach materials, including some social media pieces, to share with these stakeholders as well as with area winter sports' businesses and clubs.
- **AOC/ODOT Pilot Project**  
This group meets tomorrow, December 18, to discuss the draft list of recommendations resulting from the project work and to prioritize the final recommendations for additional AOC/ODOT funding to support implementation.
- **Coordinated Transportation Plan 2016 Updates for Hood River, Sherman and Wasco Counties**  
In advance of the work beginning in earnest in January 2016, the Mobility Manger presented the project to the Hood River County Transportation District Board, the Sherman County Commission and STF Committee, the Wasco County Commission and the Wasco County STF Committee (MCCOG). The project still needs to be presented to the Hood River County STF Committee and the Mobility Manager is working with the Hood River County Transportation District staff to schedule this in January.
- **WET Seasonal Bus**  
Arlene provided a brief update on the project's progress. Skamania County Senior Services received Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds to continue the program for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Arlene shared that the funding proposal included many safety enhancements for accessing the Dog Mountain trailhead, including reworking the

seasonal bus schedule and implementing a Dog Mountain Shuttle during the height of the spring bloom season to help alleviate traffic concerns. The grant proposal was comprehensive in scope to mitigate safety issues around Dog Mountain and includes extra law enforcement, USFS staff and a variable message sign among other suggestions.

- **Klickitat County Mt. Adams Transportation Service (MATS) New Schedule**  
Norma reported The MATS' White-Salmon-Bingen-Hood River schedule has been slightly revised and went into effect Nov. 30th. The Opportunity Connections stop has ceased due to program changes there; the Hood River BPOE stop has been eliminated; a Hood River Pietro's stop has been added and route times adjusted. The Mobility Manager provided technical support by updating the promotional brochure for this important service and by also updating the Gorge TransLink Alliance website to reflect the new schedule.
  
- **Governor Brown's Transportation Visioning Panel Regional Forum**  
Governor Brown has appointed a panel to develop of series of recommendations that address transportation issues across all modes and regions of the state. The panel will be exploring these issues throughout 2016. They will be meeting with the Lower John Day Area Commission on Transportation and other stakeholders on January 4<sup>th</sup> for the first in a series of regional meetings around the state. The panel is charged with:
  - Assessing current conditions of Oregon's Transportation System
  - Proposing a long-term vision for the future of the Transportation System
  - Creating a series of recommendations that can be enacted in the short-term to lay groundwork for achieving the vision.
  
- **Medical Transportation Brochure**  
The Mobility Manager worked with a community partner to have the Medical Transportation Brochure used by the MCCOG Brokerage translated into Spanish in advance of community Oregon Health Plan signups in Dec/Jan to be held in both The Dalles and Hood River.

### **Provider Updates**

Dan Schwanz noted that he is working to set up Brokerage Training opportunities for both the Defensive Driving and Passenger Service and Safety Training to start in January and run through June 2016. He does not know if the Oregon Health Authority will continue to pay for this training beyond June so he is working to get them scheduled within the first six months of 2016.

**Funding/Training Opportunities:** 10 min.

#### **1. ODOT 2016 STF Discretionary Grants**

#### **2. Washington State Transportation Training Coalition Courses:**

- **Ethics: Framework for Ethical Decision-Making**  
Webinar January 20, 2016 9:00am – 10:30 am; \$50
  
- **Minimizing Workplace Gossip**  
Webinar January 27, 2016 9:00am – 10:30 am; \$50

- **Conquering the Workplace Bully**

Webinar January 27, 2016 1:00pm – 2:30pm; \$50

**3. Center for Transportation Excellence in partnership with the National Alliance of Public Transportation Advocates (NAPTA)**

- **Big Ambitions? Start Local**

Webinar January 12, 2016 11:00am - Noon; Free

**Announcements**

5 min.

**Washington Public Transportation Plan Draft**

To comment, click [here](#). Or contact the Project Manager: Sarah Shannon

Email: ShannSa@consultant.wsdot.wa.gov

Phone: 206-462-6357

**Public comment period closes January 5, 2016.**

**Next Meeting:**

1 min.

Feb. 10, 2016 (Wednesday) from 3:00pm to 4:30pm at the Hood River County Public Library meeting room.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:50pm.