

Grafton-Coos Regional Coordinating Council
February 12th 2021 – 10:00 AM
Online Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Van Chesnut (Advance Transit); Christine Lee (TCCAP); Kathleen Vasconcelos (GCSCC); Doug Grant (Transport Central); Rafan Templeton (Transport Central); Amy Sullivan (Lakes Region Mental Health Center); David Jeffers (Lakes RPC); Pat Crocker (UVLSRPC); Katie Lamb (NCC)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:06AM. A roll call with introductions was completed.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes from 10/20/2020 The minutes were approved unanimously via motion of Pat Crocker, seconded by Van Chesnut.

3. Updates from Providers and Members

- Transport Central (Doug Grant):
 - Severe shortage in drivers; one driver currently in quarantine due to passenger testing positive.
 - 15% less capacity, but due to lack of drivers so still operating at full capacity
 - 85,000-90,000 miles in 2020, mostly medical and short distance rides
- Tri-County CAP (Christine Lee):
 - Have noticed a decline in ridership, started in the late fall due to rise in COVID cases
 - Short on drivers
 - Usually 1,050-1,100 trips a month, but doing 900-1,000 recently
 - Issue with getting Medicaid rides (One Call) because of booking system set up; revenue from these rides has been cut in half from prior years due to lack of rides
- Advance Transit (Van Chesnut):
 - Ridership about half as normal, partly due to operating at half capacity due to distancing; 6,000 fixed route rides, 1,500 shuttle rides
 - Shut down shuttle at hospital due to many staff working from home
 - Federal mask mandate wasn't a huge deal due to mandating masks from nearly the beginning; system in place to process medical exceptions
 - Relief funds low for the state of NH due to low annual spending; VT got \$26m additional, while NH only got \$297,000 additional (CRRSAA)
- Grafton County Senior Citizens Council (Kathleen Vasconcelos):
 - GCSCC is not doing in-programs and is still doing clientless transportation services (online order pick-ups, prescriptions, etc). Preparing buses for ridership with fitted partitions and other safety measures
 - Working on getting drivers vaccinated
- Lakes Region Mental Health Center (Amy Sullivan):
 - Began operating buses for transportation in October; ridership is reduced, about 20% of normal operations; recently acquired a new bus
 - Lost driver at beginning of COVID, so struggling with driver availability as well
 - Providing rides to medical appointments, grocery, DMV, and general quality of life services

4. DOT Grant Applications

Doug Grant made a motion to vote Tri-County CAP as the lead agency for the 5310 2022-23 contract. Pat Crocker 2nd the motion, and unanimous approval was recorded via roll call.

Doug Grant made a motion to vote that the full regional allocation of \$375,070 be pursued in the application for the 5310 2022-23 contract. Pat Crocker 2nd the motion, and unanimous approval was recorded via roll call.

5. SCC

- Van Chestnut noted the ongoing conversations about how to utilize the \$2.2m additional funds from FHWA will be spent to support transit work in the state. He noted that at the last SCC meeting, it was laid out that the \$2.2m would be evenly distributed into four sections:
 - 5307 (an additional \$550,000)
 - 5311 (an additional \$550,000)
 - “Activity 3” (\$550,000) → support projects in SSTA, ie. new Conway services
 - “Activity 4” (\$550,000) → implement ‘mobility management’ recommendation within the SSTA
- Van noted the ongoing discussion with Activity 4 to determine how to distribute the \$550,000 among the RCC regions, with two main options being considered at the moment:
 - Option 1: evenly split between all regions (\$53,750)
 - Option 2: base allocations on Census information of the regions

He also noted there is a third option, a somewhat hybrid between Option 1 and Option 2 that is being considered as well.

- Van noted that another element to sort out is the employer of the mobility manager; who’s payroll will they be on. Katie Lamb asked about Regional Planning Commissions playing that role and Pat Crocker said that it would be difficult to achieve and puts new liabilities onto the RPCs that are tricky.
- Doug Grant asked what the job description of the mobility managers would be and Van answered that they would be responsible for advocating for resources; development of the program, including a resource center for volunteer drivers to utilize; and take over the role of RCC facilitator. Van also noted that all the regions would have a standard job description, but time allotted for those job responsibilities would vary from region to region (due to money available). The ultimate goal of the mobility managers is to create a stronger statewide effort to manage mobility efforts.
- Van noted that the \$2.2m newly available would be included within the Ten Year Plan, meaning that 5310 funds currently used for mobility management would be freed up and used for providing services (purchase of service) instead.
- Pat outlined the need to look at how the RCC regions operate with the overall funding, since there won’t be enough money to support a mobility manager for each region. She noted how Region 1 is particularly large and Region 4 is much smaller, but both would get the lowest amount of funding under Option 2. In the case of Region 1, they would require a large expense budget due to all the traveling around the region.
- Katie asked about information in joining the next SCC meeting, Pat replied that it is set to be held on March 4th at 1:30PM and she will provide the link and agenda following the meeting. Van encouraged members to join the meeting in order to provide input and stay informed.

Meeting was adjourned by motion of Van, 2nd by Doug, with unanimous agreement at 11:34AM.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Lamb