

City of Sandy
Transit Advisory Committee

**The Transit Office
16610 Champion Way
5:30-7:00 p.m. July 19, 2017**

NOTES

Present: Heather Michet, Joseph Lowe, Roxanne Tolva

Staff Present: Andi Howell, Muna Rustam, Joyce LeDoux

Neighboring Agencies Present: Teresa Christopherson, Mt Hood Express

- I. Introductions & Check-in**
- II. Approval of Agenda –Unanimous Approval**
- III. Approval of Meeting Notes 3/14/17 – Unanimous approval.**

- IV. Neighbor Updates**
Teresa discussed the finalization of the IGA. She has been the lead on the MHX project for the last 10 years, from its inception. Teresa explained the IGA agreement was an interim solution while Clackamas County examines a permanent plan for the program. The IGA is in place for one year and is expected to go for at least two years. Teresa expressed she felt it as a win-win for both parties as the County would remain the fiscal agent and Sandy would provide a local connection with onsite administration. Heather asked what the possibility of a permanent arrangement between MHX and SAM. Teresa stated the County is looking at several permanent options, including turning it over to Sandy. She is hoping to obtain a FLAP grant to review the options including creating a transit district, housing the program in one of the other County departments, creating a position in the County for someone to oversee transit throughout the county and looking at the comprehensive master plan to create a seamless system around the mountain. Andi noted that City Council was very supportive of the IGA and that interviews to fill the Transit Assistant position would be happening within the week. A special thank you to Margaret McNamara, the former Administrative Analyst for the County, for her service to MHX.

- V. Grant Updates**
Andi has applied for a planning grant with the TMP (ODOT). The original master plan, created in 2009, has been completed including the expansion of STAR via the Shopper Shuttle and additional stops and amenities allowing for multi-modal transportation. Andi stated that the STF will be whole again for the next cycle. Teresa noted that the state must have provided funding to enable the STF to provide normal funding. The 5339 grant is due on 8/17/17. Andi will be applying for 2 large buses. There is also a tourism grant process in August that Andi will be applying for. The County Tourism department is very interested in

Estacada. Muna explained what they were looking for in grant applications. She noted that with the interest in Estacada the grant application might provide the opportunity to partner and enhance our services to the city of Estacada while encouraging travel to Sandy. Some of the other ideas that are being processed for grant applications include restoring the evening service to Estacada as well as enhancing service to Estacada by offering midday and Sunday service. In addition, an express SAM/MHX ride from Gateway to Timberline is under consideration.

VI. Highlights

TAC Team Engagement

Andi would like to provide TAC the opportunity to be the face of SAM in public meetings and is hopeful to get a feature in the paper. As a crucial part of the organization, we would like to increase TAC presence in-house and within the community.

Ridership

As the trolley is at Creative Bus getting road ready, Andi provided pictures and highlighted all of the beautiful features. Andi was pleased to announce that ridership has increased for the fourth consecutive month. In November, we went fareless in town and saw ridership rise in December. January and February saw a decrease (due in part to the weather). Ridership has declined for the last four years since the fare was implemented. The high rate of ridership was also during the recession. Overall ridership has increased 1% and the shopping shuttle growth is 102%. The shuttle was designed to alleviate the high volume of STAR riders; however, STAR ridership has remained steady. ED, the costliest service, has declined.

Web Project

Andi will be in attendance at the STF project meeting for the Sandbox grant at Ride connection. The intent of the project is to unite all transit via a website that will allow trip planning. Joseph stated he was originally on the committee prior to his employment with the state. Andi asked if it was a planning or product project. Joseph stated the direction had changed from a product project to a planning project.

Google Alerts /Eclipse Shuttle/Roadeo and Conference/Discussion

We are now able to create alerts via Google.

The trolley will be running a shuttle to Bluff Park for the solar eclipse on August 21st. The runs will start at 8 am and go until 10. The buses will be shutting down between 10:00 and 10:30 for safety reasons. Andi confirmed with Teresa that MHX buses could shut down.

Andi noted that the first weekend of October was the Roadeo in Pendleton, followed by the conference. We have two drivers entered in the Roadeo! The theme is Transit Roundup and OTA should be sending out the schedule shortly.

Heather asked about the status of the E-Fare study with Tri-Met. It was determined to be too costly both by MHX and SAM. The costs would include payment for the origination, development, equipment, and maintenance. Andi mentioned the product Rogue Valley was using seemed to be a reasonable alternative that would be considered at a later date.

Joseph mentioned a company he had come across, Clearview, that provided portable charging stations for \$500. He thought that might be a great benefit at the Transit Center and/or on buses. He asked that might be considered in a future grant.

Andi mentioned that she felt the state would be encouraging transit to look towards electric buses for new purchases. She had spoken with a salesman regarding electric buses and the current cost and functionality is prohibitive. She will continue to look at the various sustainable options.

VII. Public Comment - Information

There was no further public comment.

Next Meeting/Adjourn

The Next meeting will be September 20, 2017. Adjourned 7 :00 pm