

TAC Meeting Minutes 10/19/2023

Called meeting to order @ 3:02 pm

Present at meeting- Annie Holsworth, Kindra Oliver, Dawn Mitchell, JoAnn McQueary, Ken Bronson, Reagan Maudlin, Marilyn Smith, Nick Meltzer, Barry Hoffman, Suzanne Driver, Chrissy Cliburn

*Introductions: Annie, User/Disabled; Marilyn, City of Albany; Kindra, Director of Lebanon Sr. Center/ LINX; Dawn, Linn Shuttle, Sweet Home Transportation, Senior Center; JoAnn McQueary, East Linn County; Ken Bronson, Senior/Retired, Reagan Maudlin, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator; Nick Meltzer, Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments; Barry Hoffman, Albany Transit Manager; Suzanne Driver, Volunteer Caregivers; Chrissy Cliburn, Linn County Developmental Disabilities.

*Adopt meeting minutes – Marilyn moves to approve the 09/28/2023 minutes as prepared, JoAnn Seconds, motion passes unanimously.

*Public commenters- None

*Provider Updates-

Reagan relays a brief update of information provided to her on behalf of Oregon Mennonite Residential Services and Sunshine Industries who were unable to attend the meeting.

Suzanne Driver of Volunteer Caregivers shares the program is up 10% in participation in the first quarter with nursing and care homes representing most of the riders. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, are eligible for reimbursement per mile. They just finished their annual insurance renewal process and continue with ongoing maintenance and program management.

Kindra Oliver shares 15K rides in the first quarter estimating 60K for the year. The program has 2 FTE dispatchers and 1 FTE coordinator shared between transport and the Senior Center; reports more administrative support is needed.

The 5311 projects for COVID relief funds were not selected for funding by ODOT, despite language in the applications used as prime examples for other applicants to imitate.

The parking project has a design contract established, but no timeline estimated as of yet; hopeful to break ground by Spring 2024.

The Park Street stop is still in the discussion phase for the \$40K improvement, hopeful to complete the project by Summer of 2024. RFPs have been sent out to begin the Scheduling Software project.

Ken shares some history at the Park Street stop site including some sidewalk improvements.

Nick Meltzer shares 100% increase in use of the platforms established by the Seamless Transit project since last year with 100-200 users per day. The Mobility Hub established an IGA with ODOT in mid-September and are discussing construction to begin in 2024.

Barry Shares the transit app requests feedback on: timelines, bus hygiene, sense of safety, and other measures when he uses the app; asks if Nick can get the data from these surveys. Nick said that he will ask about getting that data and report to Barry outside of meeting.

Barry Hoffman shares the LB Loop expanded service project is on its second year and the ridership is encouraging. In chronological order: September 2022 had 3,400 rides; September 2023 had 5,084 rides, and October 2023 boasts 10K rides. The AM student express routes are often overloaded and excess riders are able to catch a secondary route that follows behind the express.

The Albany Transit System expansion kicked off it's new routes on 08/28/2023, which has been a smooth experience due to the timeline and thoroughness of preparation and advertising. Acquiring enough drivers to launch the services was one of the main hurdles in start up with the last driver needed hired in July of 2023 and trained by August of 2023. ATS ridership numbers are encouraging (in chronological order): August pre-expansion 180 passengers/day; August post expansion 239 passengers/day; October averaging 294 passengers/day. The 40% increase in ridership is projected to continue to increase as the service has been bolstered by 128%. The biggest contributing factor to the fast increase in ridership is the busses have been successful in maintaining the schedule on time; something that was a struggle prior to the project launch. The ATS expansion project is projected to remain on budget.

The Restroom Project experienced significant delays and repetitive cost estimate increases to a degree that challenged the assessment of good value to taxpayers. In conversing with local leadership and the Regional Transit Coordinator, they came to a consensus that the project did not justify the expense. As an outcome, all funds for the project were returned to the State and will eventually become available for other projects. A restroom will be provided by other means that are more cost effective.

The Bus Barn project hit a snag with the City purchased lot initially intended for this use being unusable due to a lack of NEPA actions taken at the time of purchase. Barry reported that problem solving tactics were unsuccessful and another option must be pursued. The School District bus barn became available shortly after the news of the unusable city owned lot. The City placed a bid that was accepted and the acquisition will be used between several city departments including the allotment of enough room and resource to satisfy the need of bus storage and maintenance for the Albany Transit System.

Dawn Mitchell shares that the Linn Shuttle is maintaining services despite some illness impacting the availability of the drivers. The Shuttle had 730 rides for Q1 2023, which is a 12% increase over Q1 2022.

Three busses that are beyond useful life and miles are slated for auction; two new busses are on order.

The Dial-A-Bus and shopper have been collaborating to increase efficiency in providing services. Dawn reports a 10% increase in ridership in Q1 2023 as compared to Q1 in 2022. The program has two new AWD vans for the program as well.

*Other Business-

Suzanne Driver shares that Volunteer Caregivers is in possession of a power chair for sale. They would consider donating it to a person who would have need without resource to purchase. Contact Suzanne Driver directly for information: volcaregivers@aol.com

Barry invites anyone who wishes to take a look at the live route information available at Albanytransit.com.

Reagan proposes that the TAC resume with the discussed quarterly meeting schedule unless important business requires additional meetings. No objections. Next meeting to be held in January 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Reagan Maudlin, LC Special/Rural Transp. Coordinator

Approved: 01/25/2024