

STF/STIF

February 7, 2019

- STF Meeting called to order 3:03
- Present were Pete Runnels, Kathie Oatman, Darlene Wingfield, Darlene Needham, Linda Kaesemeyer and Angela Lamborn. Excused Jane Parks, absent John Barrett and no longer in the community Chelsea Harrison.
- September minutes reviewed and Pete moved to approve and Linda 2nd with all in favor.
- Angie presented the 5311 grant application letting the team know that there is just over \$27,000 more expected for the coming biennium. Angie explained that the funds are general public transit funds, federal and used for operation.
- Angie presented the STF grant application. Funding for the coming biennium is forecast to be \$1,400 more than the previous. She explained that historically there has been no other transportation provider STF eligible. To her knowledge there still is not. If a different project is sent in before the deadline in place from the public notice the committee will need to reconvene and decide how funding will go, otherwise the committee can vote whether or not to approve the standing request. The request is from Dial-A-Ride and it is for operating funds to provide transport services to Harney County. Kathie moved to approve STF funding to go to Dial-A-Ride for operations contingent on no other projects coming in. Darlene Wingfield 2nd and all were in favor.
- Angie presented 5310 grant application. Funding for the coming biennium is expected to be \$334 less than the previous. She explained that historically there has been no other transportation provider eligible for these funds in the county. To her knowledge there still is not. These funds are federal and specific to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities. If a different project is submitted prior to the deadline advertised the committee will need to reconvene and decide how to fund the requests. The committee can now vote to approve or deny the request

from Dial-A-Ride for funding operations. Darlene Needham moved to approve 5310 funding to go to Dial-A-Ride for operations contingent on no other projects coming in for consideration. Kathie 2nd and all were in favor.

- Angie explained that the recent federal shutdown strained the budget because of delay in reimbursement. The agency has now been reimbursed and has a contingency plan in place should it happen again. However because there is uncertainty with the 15th looming and no decision for a long term opening, the reduced services put in place will remain until the first of March at the earliest.
- There being no further questions STF Meeting adjourned at 3:15
- STIF Opened 3:16
- Angie explained that a discretionary STIF funding request was submitted in the amount of \$124,000 because there is industry concern that STF funds will be cut to transit organizations. She explained that Harney is funded at the floored minimum rate in all funds and that if STF is cut STIF is at the same rate and will have to pick up the operating but that STIF requires increase in service which is what has been approved previously. Harney cannot increase service if operating is cut. Discretionary funds will fill the operating gap by funding the Bend/Burns trip if STF is cut. She went on to say that the legislative intent was increase service and not remove funding but add funding. That being said there will be support not to touch STF. The end result remains to be seen, but the advice of our Region 5 consultant is to back fill with the discretionary funding so as to not get caught holding the bag. Linda moved to approve the STIF project for discretionary funding, stating the Bend/Burns trip is a key service for the community. Pete 2nd and all were in favor.
- Angie filled the committee in on the STIF operating projects previously approved. Funds have not arrived at this point, however the deviated fixed route is being offered free of charge. The number of rides provided on that service has almost doubled since being made free and the number of unduplicated clients has doubled. Angie explained that tells us we are

seeing new faces previously unserved by our system. This is the intent of the program. Darlene stated as dispatcher she is seeing faces she had not seen before and giving out route information daily. This addition appears to be a success.

- Round table discussion. Kathie mentioned the narrow steps up in the Ford Vans. Darlene N. said DAR realized the issue and in the new vehicles there will be regular bus step entrances to avoid the issue. There is no way to fix the existing design flaws unfortunately. Darlene W. said drivers are really good about assisting passengers in and out on the steps and warning each time of how narrow they are.
- Medicaid rides were discussed and the board wanted to make sure the brokerage was not continuing to offer our rides to John Day. Darlene N. said this has not occurred for a while.
- Pete asked about a board replacement for Chelsea since she has moved. A member who represents recreation would be a great replacement. Pete said he had a trail meeting next week and would see if anyone working on the trail would be interested in adding their perspective to the committee.
- No further business the meeting adjourned at 3:40.

Respectfully submitted

Angela Lamborn