

Umatilla County Transportation Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton OR 97801 Room 114
Zoom virtual option
February 6, 2023 2:00PM

AC Members Present: Staci Kunz (transit consultant); Heidi Zeigler (DHS); Linda Carter (City of Pendleton); and Teresa Dutcher (Chair)

AC Members Virtually: Kim Beck (U.C. CDDP); JD Tovey (CTUIR/Kayak); Rod Harwood (GOBHI) and Jose Garcia (New Horizons)

County Liaison: Megan Davchevski (Transit Coordinator)

Public: Mark Morgan (City of Hermiston) and Laurel Sweeney (City of Milton-Freewater)

Chair Dutcher greeted the group and called the Umatilla County Transportation Advisory Committee (UCTAC) meeting to order at 2:00 PM. There were introductions of the UCTAC committee members in the room and online.

Meeting Minutes:

Kim moved to approve the January 19, 2023 minutes as presented. Linda seconded. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

5310 Projects – Cuts needed per ODOT:

Megan provided a brief overview of the needed cuts. Originally ODOT had told Qualified Entities (QEs) to plan for an additional 20% allocation. Now, the additional 20% is not available and ODOT is requiring QEs to make the project cuts.

Megan stated that there were some proposals via email. Kim proposed an 16.7% cut between all projects. Linda had asked that the \$8,197.80 that the City of Pendleton included in conjunction with the reduction of the same amount from the STIF Plan be removed from the grant amount before taking any cuts. This would make the City of Pendleton's 5310 amount, for purposes of establishing the proposed cuts, \$306,877.

Projects:

City of Hermiston original amount \$160,000.00

City of Pendleton original amount \$315,074.80

City of Milton-Freewater original amount \$102,004.00

Discussion and Decision:

Teresa said that the City of Pendleton should get to keep the \$8,197.80, not to be considered for cuts, because STIF is separate and has already been approved. Teresa and others expressed frustration and disappointment with the situation.

Jose Garcia joined the meeting virtually

Linda clarified that her proposal is to take each city's portion of the pie, and reduce the total funding pie by 20%. Each city's funding would be cut based on their portion of the funding. This would be: Hermiston - \$132,985 (25% of County award), Pendleton - \$263,261 (49% of County award) and Milton-Freewater –

\$84,653 (26% of County award).

Kim said Hermiston would reduce by 16.9%, Pendleton by 16.4%, and Milton-Freewater by 17%, so basically the same across the board.

Teresa pointed out that Pendleton and Milton-Freewater are receiving less than they have received in the past. Linda stated that this will be an ongoing issue in the future because we keep funding new programs.

Discussion continued regarding the future of the funds.

Staci asked if the cities had any thoughts about the proposed cuts. Mark said no, it was a very tough situation all-around. Laurel said the City of Milton-Freewater has \$30,000 they could access so they would be willing to reduce their 5310 amount by \$30,000 to distribute to Hermiston and Pendleton.

Heidi moved that the UCTAC recommend the following 5310 project amounts:

Hermiston - \$147,985
Pendleton - \$278,261
Milton-Freewater - \$54,653

Linda seconded. Motion carried 8-0.

Kim had to leave the meeting

Should ODOT find more 5310 funds, Linda moved that the re-distribution of funds be pro-rated to Hermiston and Pendleton's projects on a 50/50 split up to their original 5310 project amount. The excess of available funds will go to Milton-Freewater up to the original 5310 project amount. Heidi seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Other Business:

Regarding the System Sustainability policy – Megan is still waiting to get in touch with Angie on what an acceptable reserve amount would be. Angie has been busy with STIF plans so this conversation will need to be continued until next time. The previous discussed plan will move forward with Megan compiling UCTAC member policy feedback before the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding future funding and working towards funding the regional routes. Staci asked if it would be possible to form a subcommittee to fund regional routes locally instead of using discretionary dollars. The UCTAC should have a plan to stretch our dollars. Teresa stated that the Transportation Development Plan will assist with this for all of the County's routes. It will identify needs throughout the County. A subcommittee would add too many redundancies, each of the cities have their own local transportation committees that share information with the UCTAC. Megan shared that a lot of Staci's concerns will likely be addressed in the TDP and it will be finalized in a few months.

Linda shared concerns that the TDP will forget about senior and disabled persons transportation. Pendleton is a bedroom community for seniors, Hermiston is not. Megan shared that Linda was invited to attend the TDP Advisory Committee meetings, was she not able to make some of the meetings? Linda stated that Karen and Staci were representing Pendleton on the committee. Megan said she would share the TDP documents with Linda and she could review and provide feedback.

Megan shared that the County Commissioners re-named and re-organized the Planning Department. The department is now named the Community Development Department, with Bob as the Director and managing economic development. With that, Megan was promoted to Planning Division Manager. She will still be managing the transit program and serve as the Transit Coordinator.

Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Submitted by Megan Davchevski, Umatilla County Transit Coordinator

Adopted April 19, 2023