

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FTA 5310 MEETING
MARCH 15, 2021
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Bonnie Thiel, Michelle Owen, Joe Hayes, Ashley Dixon, Dave Sanders, Mark Estes

Baker County Staff: Commissioner Harvey, Doni Bruland, Grants Administrator

Public: None

Doni began the meeting by having the participants identify themselves and what transportation segment they were representing. Bonnie, Michelle, Joe and Mark have all been appointed by the Baker County Commissioners previously to serve on the Transportation/Transportation Safety Commission.

There was an update on the upcoming STF and STIF review that will take place on March 25, 2021.

Each applicant had the opportunity to present their projects and answer questions from the Transportation Commission as well as Commissioner Harvey.

Community Connections of NE Oregon, Inc.: represented by Joe Hays

Joe explained that the FTA dollars would be used to continue the demand/response (dial-a-ride) program in Baker.

- Dial-a-ride can be used for any purpose and is available 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday
- This program is different than the fixed route
- There are (2) buses (12 seats/2ADA) and (2) drivers
- They can transport multiple people at a time
- Total requested: \$163,863

Joe also presented a document that listed other funding sources and the number of passengers that used the transport services.

Elkhorn Taxi: represented by Dave Sanders

Dave stated that this is a new project.

- The taxi is being called with non-emergency medical needs
- The get a lot of calls from the Hospital's Emergency Room to transport people back home after being seen.
- Transports are both in town and out of town. He has been called from Ontario to transport people back home to Baker County
- He doesn't need an extra vehicle as requested on his original FTA application
- Subsidizing the elderly and disabled will help him keep costs down and he is wanting to use a 'punch-card' system.

- He would use the same program for transport to and from AA (and similar) meetings as they are medical/mental health related
- The Taxi is willing to fill in the gaps in transport service and is tailored to off-hours as they are available to run 24-hours/day
- Currently they are doing a large number of grocery and pharmacy runs for the seniors and elderly that can't, or won't drive to town due to the weather or Covid
- Total requested: anything would help to subsidize riders

The Commission discussed the needs, those met and those unmet, and how each applicant served a niche. It was the consensus that both are needed to optimize transportation opportunities.

Joe and Dave discussed how they could help each other meet the needs of the community. In the future, there may be some sort of agreement between them as the projects progress.

Michelle made the motion to recommend the Baker County Board of Commissioners fund \$20,000 per biennium to Elkhorn Taxi and \$143, 863 per biennium to Community Connections of NE Oregon, Inc. Bonnie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Doni asked that the Commission consider the Volunteer Application for seating on the Transportation Commission from Ashley Dixon.

The Commission recommends to the Baker County Commissioners that Ashley Dixon be approved for Transportation Commission membership.

Minutes taken and submitted by Doni Bruland, Grants Administrator