

Baker County Transportation/Traffic Safety Commission
March 13, 2019 @ 1:30 p.m.
Baker City Police Department
1768 Auburn Avenue, Baker City

Special Meeting of the Baker County STIF Advisory Committee Minutes

Present: Bonnie Thiel, Citizen; Michele Owen, BCPW; Jason Yencopal, BCEM; Frank Thomas, ODOT Rail & Public Transit; Doni Bruland, Baker County; Angie Jones (via phone), Grant County Transportation District; and Kelly Tanzey, BCRD.

Request from Public Transportation for Commission Recommendation: Angie discussed the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) funding application from Grant County Transportation District (GCTD) that includes a stop in Unity which is in Baker County.

STIF resources may be used for public transportation purposes that support the effective planning, deployment, operation, and administration of STIF-funded public transportation programs. These uses include, but are not limited to, creating new transit systems and services, maintaining or continuing systems and services, creating plans to improve service, and to meet match requirements for state or federal funds used to provide public transportation services.

Angie explained that this route is the last regional connection identified in their GCTD Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan and they identified STIF Priority List. It not only has a positive impact on Grant County public transit services, it will also have a positive impact for Baker and Malheur County residents that reside along the proposed route that currently are not served by public transportation. For Baker County, this route has a stop in Unity at the Mini Mart once a week to take residents to Ontario for about 3-5 hours for medical and shopping. Stops will include St. Alphonsus Hospital, Walmart, and Malheur Snake River Bus Station. Michelle asked a few questions on exactly how the stops work and Angie clarified that if a person wishes to go elsewhere in Ontario, they will be encouraged to use the Malheur County public transit system.

Frank stated that ODOT will have a form for Baker County that asks three questions. The first question, do you support the use of the project? The Committee unanimously agreed that they support this project. The second is priority of projects in which the Committee agreed that two Baker County project proposals would be first priority. Frank asked Angie if that was okay with her and she said yes as it is her understanding that this application does not have any effect on Baker County's funding. Frank stated that is correct. The third is any comments that the Advisory Committee should be sharing with the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) for approval or disapproval. Michelle stated that this is what the funding is all about to connect people with services not available in their community and Angie added that this project will serve people who currently do not have any other public transportation services at this time. In addition, Unity has a population of 69 people with 42.9% of families reported below poverty level. Frank will follow up with Doni to get the form submitted after Commission Session.

Michelle moved to recommend to the Baker County Commissioners to approve the submission of the GCTD STIF Formula Fund Project Proposal Plan as third priority with the comments to the to ODOT. Bonnie seconded the motion and recommendation was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kelly Tanzey.