

Transportation Advisory Committee
August 15, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 3:15 p.m.

In attendance: Shari Selander, Tamyra Keller, Joe Hayes, Barry Nemec, Justin Emmons

Zoom: Angie Jones (ODOT), Meghan Chancey

Staff: Doni Bruland, Heidi Martin

Election of a Chair was tabled until a future meeting.

Doni explained the reason the meeting had been called was to reallocate STIF and FTA 5310 funds because Elkhorn Taxi did not sign a Contract with the County and will stop doing business on August 31, 2023. This left two large holes in provided services; Workforce on Demand and after-hours non-emergency transport. Due to the Taxi's quitting business, the Workforce on Demand program will cease to exist. The after-hours non-emergency transport could be modified to have CCNO take over, on an on-call basis or they could sub-contract a different transportation agency.

In addition, CCNO is requesting additional funds to continue their Rides to Wellness services.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) understood that the projects were to be approved for submission to the County Commissioners.

The TAC discussed options for the after-hours transports. There are two companies that are currently doing this, however, they are on contract for GOHBI funds, Medicare and Medicaid only. Joe said they are willing to have a standby driver available after hours and they have the vehicles to accommodate ADA, seniors, and the general public.

Barry made the motion to reallocate \$25,000/biennium of FTA 5310 funding to CCNO. Shari seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The total allocation for the 2023-2025 biennium is: \$162,148/biennium. CCNO will now get the entire \$162,148/biennium. They are responsible for the 10.27% match.

Joe said that he will talk to Elkhorn Taxi and see if there's a schedule or route that they could assume to keep Workforce on Demand going as they are able.

Rides to Wellness are for people that fall through the 'cracks'. There is a co-pay, but it is considered very reasonable. Funding for the Rides to Wellness service will not begin until CCNO's funding runs out in Sept. Joe will be attending a meeting tomorrow that deals with the closing of the maternity unit at St. Alphonsus Hospital. He does not know if the closing will increase the need for Rides to Wellness or not. Heidi stated that transportation due to the maternity unit's closure was a big concern to the County. Joe said anyone in actual labor will not be transported except by ambulance.

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Joe requested an additional \$80,000/biennium to cover the Rides to Wellness service. Doni suggested that \$40,000/biennium come from Workforce on Demand and \$40,000/biennium to come from the Operational Reserves.

Tamara made the motion to approve the reallocation of funds - \$40,000/biennium from Workforce on Demand and \$40,000/biennium from Operational Reserves to fund the Rides to Wellness program after CCNO's funds run-out in September 2023. Meghan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the Maintenance funds that were allocated in June. It was explained by Angie Jones, ODOT, that only the \$40,000/biennium that was proposed in the STIF application could be used for maintenance. The remainder of that Capitol fund, \$100,000, was supposed to go to purchase of a new ADA vehicle for Elkhorn Taxi and cannot be moved into the maintenance portion of that project.

Barry made the motion to continue with the \$40,000/biennium Maintenance project that will fund only maintenance/repairs over \$1,000 and will have to be approved by the TAC prior to disbursement by the County. Justin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Doni said that a new, simplified RFP will go out in the next few weeks for Client-only services. This funding is now through the Population based funding formula from STIF. Step Forward will be notified when the RFP goes out to the public.

Amended Contracts for CCNO for the STIF and FTA 5310 funding will be written and submitted to the Commission for final approval on September 6, 2023.