

**Deschutes County Transportation Coordination Project
Core Team Meeting #11 – May 24, 2007
Oregon Department of Human Services, Bend
Lewis and Clark Room**

In Attendance:

Jeff Monson, Commute Options
Tyler Deke, Bend MPO
Judith Ure, Deschutes County
Andrew Spreadborough, COIC
Lin Gardner, Department of Human Services
Kathy Drew, Deschutes County Mental Health
Peter Russell, Deschutes County Planning
Heather Ornelas, Bend Area Transit
Mark DeVoney, Oregon Dept. of Transportation
Gary Daniele, WorkSource Central Oregon
Dan Vizzini, Oregon Solutions

Introductions

Dan Vizzini welcomed attendees, and asked for a round of introductions. Dan reviewed the agenda.

Announcements

Jeff Monson announced that the ODOT Public Transit Division Discretionary Grant program funding decisions were acted on by the Oregon Transportation Commission at their May 23 meeting. Based on the list of recommended projects, the City of Bend – Commute Options vanpool funding application was awarded. The project will provide funds to buy down the cost of vans – with sufficient funding for 12 vans. The project time period is two years, and the employer match requirement is 50%. Jeff thanked the City of Bend for serving as the grant applicant.

Judith Ure distributed the list of projects in Deschutes County that were recommended for funding through the Discretionary Grant program, as well as the projects not recommended.

Andrew Spreadborough provided an overview of the COIC planning project that was included on the list as a recommended project. He said that the application requests funding to support ongoing coordination activities in Central Oregon. The project goal is to establish COIC as the regional coordinating entity. Specific project activities will include positioning COIC as a central STF coordinator, supporting the counties and gaining regional efficiencies; managing coordination plans and plan updates; developing and promoting a regional (or county-level) coordination advisory council; and research and development of on-the-ground coordination tools, including a regional call center, model agreements and processes for coordination, insurance risk pool, and shared us or fleet programs. The funds will support COIC's continued involvement in coordination activities – including the continuation of the Core Team.

Heather Ornelas said that several of the City of Bend paratransit system applications were not funded yet, including for vehicle replacement. She noted that the Dial-A-Ride buses are currently traveling 50,000 miles per year.

Andrew announced that the Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT) is planning a regional transit forum on Monday, June 18, 2007 at Eagle Crest, from 3:00 to 6:00. The purpose of the event is to announce and discuss the results of a comprehensive regional transit

market analysis; to discuss possible "next steps" for regional transit development; to explore the economic benefits and costs of a regional transit system; and to discuss with and hear from forum attendees on the relative priority of transit regionally.

Kathy Drew noted that if the goal of the forum is to discuss the need for a regional system, that those who need transportation services will not be represented. She noted the difficulty in getting people to Eagle Crest. Dan suggested arranging something like the "day at the legislature" where organized shared transportation takes place to get people to the event.

Heather provided an update on the BAT. She said that the City Council is discussing the formation of a special transit district. She said in terms of the BAT system, the fleet has stabilized, and that ridership is growing. BAT has new rider routes scheduled – and these routes will serve an additional 12,000 residents (those residing within a quarter mile of the route). She also noted that the ADA access lawsuit has been settled.

Lin Gardner summarized a new pilot program launched by the Cascades East Ride Center in which 58 clients with lots of medical appointments and that reside in Bend were identified. These clients will be sent information on utilizing the BAT system, and they will get free bus tickets. The goal is to get them used to riding the BAT. The program will begin soon. Heather noted the benefit this program will provide to the state Medicaid system. For the cost of one medical trip, the client will receive unlimited trips on the BAT. This is a benefit also to the rider, as it increases personal mobility.

Heather said that BAT has a travel training project that assists riders with special needs to learn to ride BAT, and provides incentives and training for the riders. The goal of this project is to move riders from the paratransit system to the fixed route system.

Heather also reported that routes 5 and 6 are being reviewed, and the BAT system will have routes the Bend Senior Center and senior housing areas. They are planning a senior training program. Middle school training programs are also under way.

Review of Revised Draft Deschutes County Coordinated Transportation Plan

Andrew distributed the latest revision of the draft plan. He said that the updates include formatting revisions to meet the ODOT Public Transit Division requirements for the coordinated plans; additional needs assessment surveying of human service providers to identify common transportation origins and destinations; and the inclusion of the gaps and barriers in transportation services as identified by the Core Team at the April meeting.

The Core Team reviewed and made edits to the plan. Most of the edits were focused on the inventory of gaps and barriers. The Core Team agreed to restructure the gaps and barriers section to directly align the gaps and barriers with the proposed strategies to address the gaps/barriers. These strategies were derived from the priority list developed over the previous few meetings.

Andrew said that he and Dan will work on the revisions, and send the revised draft to the Core Team via email next week. He said that the plan needs to go to the County in June for review and action. Judith said that the commissioners will review on June 11 or June 13, and that the plan needs to be submitted by June 1 so that the commissioners have an opportunity to review prior to their meeting. Judith welcomed Core Team members to attend the meeting.

Declaration of Cooperation

Dan said that we are looking for endorsement of the plan from stakeholder organizations through a declaration of cooperation, which is a document that formalizes stakeholders' commitment to move

elements of the plan forward. Once the plan is complete, approved by Deschutes County, and submitted to ODOT, the Core Team will be asked to review a list of actions/roles, identify what they want to take on, and then have those roles/actions endorsed by their governing boards. Dan distributed a draft declaration of cooperation summary, but said that it will be reworked substantially in response to the changes to the plan. His goal will be to have the declaration parallel the plan priorities and actions.

Next Steps/Meeting

The revised plan will be sent to the Core Team next week. The County Commissioners will review and act on the plan by mid-June, and submit the plan to ODOT by June 40. The final/approved plan will be distributed to Core Team organizations for review, along with a declaration of cooperation template that lists elements that Core Team organizations could elect to take on. The Core Team will meet again in July to review the draft declaration of cooperation. The declaration will be finalized in August.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 26, 2007
 9:00 AM to Noon
 Deschutes County Administration
 DeArmond Meeting Room
 1300 NW Wall, Bend**