

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting a Schedule                    )  
Change to the Columbia County Rider                )        RESOLUTION NO. 13-2016  
Transit Line 1 – Downtown Portland                )

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration requires that recipients of certain federal funding for transit establish a Fare and Service Change Policy encouraging public participation in any changes made to route, fare, and/or service structures for transit systems; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Board of Commissioners adopted Order No. 2-2012 to establish such a policy for its transit department, Columbia County Rider (“CC Rider”); and

WHEREAS, CC Rider received numerous complaints concerning the consistently late arrival times of its afternoon runs on Line 1 – Downtown Portland; and

WHEREAS, working with the Columbia County Citizens Transit Advisory Committee (“CCCTAC”), CC Rider identified two afternoon runs on Line 1 that are failing to meet scheduled arrival times in Downtown Portland; and

WHEREAS, as described in the Staff Report attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference, CC Rider staff in consultation with the CCCTAC, have proposed changes to routes and times to improve on-time performance; and

WHEREAS, a month-long trial run of the proposed changes to the schedule showed positive results concerning an improvement in on-time arrivals to SW Salmon Street and SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue; and

WHEREAS, as a result of improved on-time performance, staff determined that:

- (a) The 4:00 PM run from the St Helens Transit Center should be moved back to a 3:45 p.m. departure; and
- (b) The 4:30 p.m. run from the St Helens Transit Center should become an ‘Express’ run, serving only: (1) the St Helens Transit Center; (2) NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street at NE Prairie Street in Scappoose; and (3) Downtown Portland on its St Helens to Portland leg, as shown in Figure 2 attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the County’s fare and schedule change policy, CC Rider announced its intent to adjust schedule times and runs by posting notice at affected bus stops, announcing the trial program on the CC Rider Facebook page and by posting on the CC Rider web page; and

WHEREAS, CC Rider also issued a notice for a public hearing on the proposed changes two-weeks prior to the scheduled public hearing in the St Helens Chronicle, on April 12, 2016; and

WHEREAS, CC Rider is currently in the process of updating its Line 1 – Downtown Portland schedule to reflect time and run changes; CC Rider has implemented its Fare and Service Change Policy; and

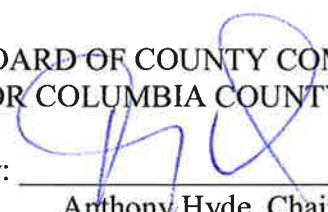
WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on April 27, 2016, to accept evidence and testimony on the proposed changes. The Board then closed the public hearing, deliberated, and voted to approve the changes as proposed by staff and the CCCTAC.

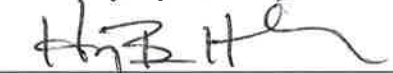
NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD HEREBY RESOLVES, as follows:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein as findings in support of this resolution; and
2. The findings and conclusions in the Staff Report attached as Exhibit A are also adopted as findings in support of this resolution; and
3. Staff is authorized to prepare and implement the schedule changes as shown in the attached Exhibit B.

DATED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Anthony Hyde, Chair

By:   
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By:   
Earl Fisher, Commissioner

Approved as to form

By:   
Office of County Counsel

## EXHIBIT A – Staff Report

### **STAFF REPORT:            Schedule Changes for 4:00 and 4:30 Runs Line 1 – Downtown Portland**

With increased traffic along significant highways leading into Downtown Portland it has become necessary to alter two runs of Line 1 into the city center. The end of the 'Great Recession' and the commensurate increase in building construction and population growth in the Portland Metropolitan Region has created traffic conditions which affect the timeliness of arrivals to the CC Rider service stop located at SW Salmon Street and SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The runs affected by these conditions are the 4:00 PM and the 4:30 PM out of the St Helens Transit Center. CC Rider was receiving almost daily calls that one or both of these runs were arriving anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes late.

To address this situation, CC Rider staff looked at two primary changes to the service into Downtown Portland. The first change looked at involved investigating new routes from HWY 30 that would avoid NW Yeon Avenue and I-405/NW-SW 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. These route changes included using NW 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NW Wardway/NW Vaughn to NW-SW 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue to SW Salmon Street for trips outbound from St Helens and either SW-NW 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NW Vaughn Street to NW 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue to NW Sherlock/NW Nicolai Streets; or SW-NW 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NW Vaughn Street to NW 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue to NW Sherlock/NW Nicolai Streets, continuing back on route at NW Yeon Avenue.

After running these routes a few times it was determined that although Line 1 never was held up by traffic congestion, the slower speeds and frequent stop signs and traffic signals resulted in no net time savings. While these alternate routes through NW and SW Portland do not save any time, they will be established as alternate routes only to be used to avoid traffic delays due to significant incidents on the primary route such as accidents and road construction delays.

The second change staff investigated was to have the 4:00 PM bus leave the St Helens Transit Center at 3:45 PM. This would advance the schedule between St Helens and SW Salmon Street at SW 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue by 15 minutes. The extra time allows for traffic on I-405. The bus still arrives at SW Salmon Street and SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 5:00 PM. If the bus is early to SW Salmon Street at SW 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the driver holds there until 4:50 PM, then travels the 8 blocks to SW Salmon Street and SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The 4:30 PM bus out of St Helens Transit Center becomes an 'Express' bus, stopping only at Scappoose NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street and NE Prairie St, then straight into Downtown Portland.

CC Rider instituted these changes on a trial basis for the month of March, 2016. During this trial period, complaints concerning late buses at SW Salmon Street and SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue decreased substantially. In fact, during the month of March, not one complaint was received concerning late buses on the two runs under investigation.

Staff notified the public concerning the trial change to the two runs through a variety of methods including postings on the CC Rider Facebook page, the CC Rider web site and by posting flyers at all affected stops along the route. Staff also directed operators to stop at affected stops during the 4:30 'Express' run to pick up any passengers that might not have been made aware of the change. Drivers were instructed to verbally notify these passengers of the change, so that these random pick-ups would not continue to occur during the trial period.

Ridership is low for both of these runs from St Helens to Portland, but the return is usually at capacity. To address the occasional passenger pick-up on the 4:30 run at Rite Aid, a note was posted at the stop requesting that passengers wanting to depart Rite Aid at 4:35, for Portland, board the 4:20 bus headed to the St Helens Transit Center, then remain on the bus for the 4:30 trip to Portland. Passengers that usually take the 4:35 Line 1 from Rite Aid to Scappoose, were informed of the Line 2 – PCC bus, which also arrives Rite Aid at 4:35 and arrives Scappoose – NE 1<sup>st</sup> and NE Prairie at 4:50 PM; and HWY 30 at Havlik Drive at 4:55 PM. Another choice offered between St Helens and Scappoose is Line 3 – South County Flex. This bus leaves Rite Aid for Scappoose at 4:45 PM.

### **Proposal**

Because CC Rider has a Fare and Service Change Policy, we are notifying the Board of County Commissioners that we wish to implement this change on the two runs in questions. This Policy requires us to notify the public at least two weeks in advance of their opportunity to comment on the proposal at a Public Hearing with the Commissioners. The Public Hearing is scheduled for April 20, 2016.

Columbia County Rider is proposing to permanently adjust the two runs in question. We would adjust the 4:00 PM from St Helens Transit Center to 3:45 PM to account for traffic conditions on NW Yeon Avenue and I-405/NW-SW 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For those times when this run arrives early to SW Salmon Street and SW 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the driver is instructed to dwell until 4:50 PM, before continuing to SW Salmon Street at SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For the 4:30 PM run, CC Rider will make it an 'Express' bus, stopping only at NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street and NE Prairie Street, in Scappoose, before reaching Portland. The condition to dwell at SW Salmon Street and SW 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue also applies.

In bound trips from Portland to St Helens are not affected by this proposal.

**FIGURE 1: Existing Schedule Line 1 – Downtown Portland**

<b>Line 1 - Downtown Portland MONDAY - FRIDAY</b>							
<b>TO SW SALMON/SW 6TH AVE</b>							
<b>St Helens TC</b>	<b>Bowling Alley Ln/Rite Aid</b>	<b>Church Rd/HWY 30</b>	<b>NE 1st/Pairie</b>	<b>HWY 30/Havlik Dr</b>	<b>HWY 30/NW 113th Ave/Linnton</b>	<b>Portland Union Station</b>	<b>SW Salmon St/SW 6th Ave</b>
5:00‡			5:20‡				6:00‡
5:50	5:55	6:00	6:10	6:15	6:30		7:00
6:20	6:25	6:30	6:40	6:45	7:00		7:30
6:50	6:55	7:00	7:10	7:15	7:30		8:00
8:30	8:35	8:40	8:50	8:55	9:10		9:30
10:30	10:35	10:40	10:50	10:55	11:10		11:30
<b>12:30</b>	<b>12:35</b>	<b>12:40</b>	<b>12:50</b>	<b>12:55</b>	<b>1:10</b>		<b>1:30</b>
<b>1:00‡</b>			<b>1:15‡</b>				<b>2:00‡</b>
<b>2:30</b>	<b>2:35</b>	<b>2:40</b>	<b>2:50</b>	<b>2:55</b>	<b>3:10</b>		<b>3:30</b>
<b>3:30</b>	<b>3:35</b>	<b>3:40</b>	<b>3:50</b>	<b>3:55</b>	<b>4:10</b>		<b>4:30</b>
<b>4:00</b>	<b>4:05</b>	<b>4:10</b>	<b>4:20</b>	<b>4:25</b>	<b>4:40</b>		<b>5:00</b>
<b>4:30</b>	<b>4:35</b>	<b>4:40</b>	<b>4:50</b>	<b>4:55</b>	<b>5:10</b>		<b>5:30</b>
<b>5:00</b>	<b>5:05</b>	<b>5:10</b>	<b>5:20</b>	<b>5:25</b>	<b>5:40</b>		<b>6:00</b>

‡ **LIMITED:** Does not serve Rite Aid, Warren Baptist Church, US 30 at Havlik Dr., Linnton, Lincoln HS. Continues as Line 7 - Lower Columbia Connector

**FIGURE 2: Proposed Schedule Line 1 – Downtown Portland**

<b>Line 1 - Downtown Portland MONDAY - FRIDAY</b>							
<b>TO SW SALMON/SW 6TH AVE</b>							
St Helens TC	Bowling Alley Ln/Rite Aid	Church Rd/HWY 30	NE 1st/Pairie	HWY 30/Havlik Dr	HWY 30/NW 113th Ave/Linnton	SW Salmon/SW 14th	SW Salmon St/SW 6th Ave
5:00‡			5:20‡				6:00‡
5:50	5:55	6:00	6:10	6:15	6:30		7:00
6:20	6:25	6:30	6:40	6:45	7:00		7:30
6:50	6:55	7:00	7:10	7:15	7:30		8:00
8:30	8:35	8:40	8:50	8:55	9:10		9:30
10:30	10:35	10:40	10:50	10:55	11:10		11:30
<b>12:30</b>	<b>12:35</b>	<b>12:40</b>	<b>12:50</b>	<b>12:55</b>	<b>1:10</b>		<b>1:30</b>
<b>1:00‡</b>			<b>1:15‡</b>				<b>2:00‡</b>
<b>2:30</b>	<b>2:35</b>	<b>2:40</b>	<b>2:50</b>	<b>2:55</b>	<b>3:10</b>		<b>3:30</b>
<b>3:30</b>	<b>3:35</b>	<b>3:40</b>	<b>3:50</b>	<b>3:55</b>	<b>4:10</b>		<b>4:30</b>
<b>3:45</b>	<b>3:50</b>	<b>3:55</b>	<b>4:05</b>	<b>4:10</b>	<b>4:25</b>	<b>4:50</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>4:30*</b>			<b>4:50*</b>			<b>5:20*</b>	<b>5:30</b>
5:00	5:05	5:10	5:20	5:25	5:40		6:00

‡ **LIMITED:** Does not serve Rite Aid, Warren Baptist Church, US 30 at Havlik Dr., Linnton, Lincoln HS. Continues as Line 7 - Lower Columbia Connector. \***Express**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 13-2016, allowing us to implement the revisions to the schedule for Line 1 – Downtown Portland. These revisions will better serve our passengers.

Exhibit B – Proposed Schedule Changes

<b>Line 1 - Downtown Portland MONDAY - FRIDAY</b>							
<b>TO SW SALMON/SW 6TH AVE</b>							
St Helens TC	Bowling Alley Ln/Rite Aid	Church Rd/HWY 30	NE 1st/Pairie	HWY 30/Havlik Dr	HWY 30/NW 113th Ave/Linnton	SW Salmon/SW 14th	SW Salmon St/SW 6th Ave
5:00‡			5:20‡				6:00‡
5:50	5:55	6:00	6:10	6:15	6:30		7:00
6:20	6:25	6:30	6:40	6:45	7:00		7:30
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8:30	8:35	8:40	8:50	8:55	9:10		9:30
10:30	10:35	10:40	10:50	10:55	11:10		11:30
<b>12:30</b>	<b>12:35</b>	<b>12:40</b>	<b>12:50</b>	<b>12:55</b>	<b>1:10</b>		<b>1:30</b>
1:00‡			1:15‡				2:00‡
<b>2:30</b>	<b>2:35</b>	<b>2:40</b>	<b>2:50</b>	<b>2:55</b>	<b>3:10</b>		<b>3:30</b>
<b>3:30</b>	<b>3:35</b>	<b>3:40</b>	<b>3:50</b>	<b>3:55</b>	<b>4:10</b>		<b>4:30</b>
<b>3:45</b>	<b>3:50</b>	<b>3:55</b>	<b>4:05</b>	<b>4:10</b>	<b>4:25</b>	<b>4:50</b>	<b>5:00</b>
<b>4:30*</b>			<b>4:50*</b>			<b>5:20*</b>	<b>5:30</b>
5:00	5:05	5:10	5:20	5:25	5:40		6:00

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