

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting Service
Reductions for Columbia County Rider
Transportation

ORDER NO. 4-2019

WHEREAS, due to current and projected budget shortfalls, Columbia County Rider Transportation (CC Rider) requires certain reductions in transit service to maintain solvency; and

WHEREAS, the CC Rider Fare and Service Change Policy, adopted by Order No. 2-2012, established procedures to allow for and encourage public participation in any consideration of route, fare and/or service changes for the CC Rider transit system; and

WHEREAS, CC Rider staff, with the support of the Columbia County Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee, initiated a public outreach process in October 2018, through an online survey seeking public input on transit service reductions. The survey was promoted on CC Rider's website, Facebook and Twitter pages as well as through flyers posted in all buses; and

WHEREAS, CC Rider also held public forums on November 14, 2018 and January 15, 2019, to solicit further public input; and

WHEREAS, based on CC Rider staff's analysis of ridership, financial data, and system efficiencies and input from the public, staff recommends service reductions, as described in the staff report and recommendation, attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, in addition to attending the CC Rider public forum on January 15, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board"), following proper notice, held a public hearing on January 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, after receiving testimony and evidence, the Board closed the hearing, deliberated, and voted unanimously to adopt staff's recommended service reductions;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ORDERS, as follows:


1. The following changes in CC Rider transit service are hereby adopted and unless otherwise noted below, shall become effective on February 3, 2019:
 - a. Combine the Line 1 and 7 and reduce the number of trips to Portland from fourteen (14) to eight (8) per day.


- b. Beginning April 1, 2019, reduce the number of trips on the Line 2 from six (6) to four (4) per day.
- c. Reduce the number of trips on the Line 3 from seven (7) to five (5) per day.
- d. Eliminate the Line 4.
- e. Reduce the number of trips on the Line 5 from three (3) to two (2), and reduce the total stops in Longview/Kelso to three (3) per trip.
- f. Move the Line 6 from fixed route to demand response Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- g. Eliminate all Weekend Service.

2. In support of its decision, the Board adopts as findings the above recitals and the staff report, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference.

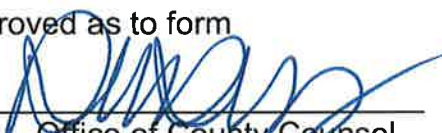
DATED this 30th day of January, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: 
Henry Heimuller, Chair

By: 
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By: 
Alex Tardif, Commissioner

Approved as to form
By: 
Office of County Counsel



DATE: January 22, 2019
FROM: Todd Wood, Transit Administrator
TO: Board of County Commissioners
RE: Service Modification

Over the past several years, transit has seen the cost of operation increase due to normal inflation as well as an increase in services provided. Transit has no local funding and must rely solely on fares, grants, and contracts for revenue. Revenue has been stable to slightly lower over the past several years due to a decrease in grant allocations. Additionally, MTR Western has recently ended their contract with the County and a new contractor is being sought. Based on industry analysis we expect the costs of the new contract to increase operational expenditures by an additional 62.5%.

Last year transit borrowed \$400k in order to close the revenue gap needed for operations. With no changes to the transit system staff anticipates a \$650k shortfall at the end of fiscal year 2019 with an ongoing potential shortfall annually of \$500k.

Staff has analyzed ridership data, grant data, and expense data for the fiscal years 2014 – 2019. The analysis included cost per ride, number of riders per trip, average ridership per year, amount of grant monies allocated to each type of service, current revenue, expected future revenue, vehicle age and maintenance costs, contracted services costs and the potential effects of the service modifications on revenue.

In October, a survey was sent to all riders both on the system and via online systems to begin solicitation of public input. Flyers and documents have been distributed both online and on each bus. The feedback has been collected and included as part of the overall analysis. Public forums were held on November 14, 2018 and January 15, 2019 to discuss the changes to the service. After analysis of the data, consideration of public feedback, and in order to bring the system to a more sustainable level Staff is recommending the following changes be made:

- Combine the line 1 and 7 and reduce the number of trips to Portland from 14 to 8 per day.



- Beginning April 1, 2019 reduce the number of trips on the line 2 from 6 to 4 per day.
- Reduce the number of trips on the line 3 from 7 to 5 per day.
- Eliminate the line 4. Sunset Empire will serve this area for the time being.
- Reduce the number of trips on the line 5 from 3 to 2, and reduce the total stops in Longview/Kelso to 3 per trip.
- Move the line 6 from fixed route to demand response Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- Eliminate all Weekend Service.

With these changes, transit anticipates a reduction in the operational deficit for fiscal year 2019 of nearly \$150k and over \$250k in 2020. This modification along with future system re-alignment should allow the transit system to payback the county loans and begin to work towards sustainability. However, without local funding long term sustainability is questionable.