

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting Service and  
Fare Changes for Columbia County Rider  
Transportation

ORDER NO. 25-2021

WHEREAS, Columbia County Rider Transportation (CC Rider) requires certain changes in transit service to best serve the needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the CC Rider Fare and Service Change Policy, adopted by Order No. 2-2012, establishes 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, in accordance with the Fare and Service Change Policy, CC Rider staff sought public input on changes to improve transit service, and on January 19, 2021, the Columbia County Transit Advisory Committee (CCTAC) met and voted to recommend the following changes to transit service to maximize the efficient use of limited resources:

- Establish a Dial-A-Ride base fare of \$3.00 with a \$1.00 discount for Honored Citizens (now titled the Reduce Fare Program);
- Charge \$0.75 per mile for Dial-A-Ride trips in excess of 8 miles
- Extend the Dial-A-Ride service area to the entire county rather than the limited service area of within two miles of Highway 30;
- Suspend Line 3 (Flex service), Line 5 (Rainier/Longview service) and Line 6 (Vernonia/Banks/Willow Creek service); and
- Focus Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) dollars on matching funds for Line 1 and Dial-A-Ride federal grants; and

WHEREAS, CC Rider staff also sought feedback on the proposed changes at a public forum on April 27, 2021, notice of which was published on the County's Facebook page and the NW Oregon Transportation Alliance website on February 25, 2021; posted on buses and transit buildings on March 8, 2021; and published in *The Chronicle* on March 10, 2021; and

WHEREAS, following proper public notice, on June 2, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on the recommended changes, which staff presented in a report attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, the Board opened the hearing for testimony and evidence, then closed the hearing, deliberated, and voted to approve recommended service and fare changes;

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

1. The following changes to CC Rider services are hereby approved:
  - a. Dial-A-Ride service shall be extended to the entire county;
  - b. Line 3 (Flex service) shall be suspended;
  - c. Line 5 (Rainier/Longview service) shall be suspended; and
  - d. Line 6 (Vernonia/Banks/Willow Creek service) shall be suspended.
  
2. The following changes to CC Rider fares are hereby approved:
  - a. Establish a \$3.00 base fare for all Dial-A-Ride trips with a \$1.00 discount for Reduced Fare Program riders; and
  - b. Dial-A-Ride trips in excess of eight (8) miles shall include an additional charge of \$0.75 per mile.
  
3. STIF funds shall focus on providing matching dollars for federal grants for Line 1 and Dial-A-Ride.
  
4. In support of its decision, the Board adopts as findings the above recitals and the staff report, attached as Exhibit A.
  
5. The fare and service changes shall become effective July 1, 2021.

DATED this 16 day of June, 2021.

Approved as to form

By: [Signature]  
Office of County Counsel

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: [Signature]  
Margaret Magruder, Chair

By: [Signature]  
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

EXHIBIT A



Service ~ Engagement ~ Connection ~ Innovation



ST. HELENS, OR 97051

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# CC Rider Challenges and Proposed Responses

## **Two Challenges:**

- **Providing the Highest Level of Dial-A-Ride Service in the Most Cost-Effective Way**
- **Securing Sustainable Sources of Match Funding for Federal and State Grants**

## **Dial-A-Ride:**

- **Cost Per Trip - \$88.00**
- **Current Fares**
  - **\$2.20 Per Trip Within City Limits**
  - **\$4.00 Per Trip Between St Helens and Scappoose**
- **Service Area**
  - **Restricted to Pick-Up and Drop-Off Locations Within Two Miles of Hwy 30**

## **Proposed Response to Dial-A-Ride Challenge:**

- **Establish \$3.00 Base Fare for All Dial-A-Ride Trips**
- **Make Honored Citizen Discount Available for Dial-A-Ride Trips**
- **Add Charge of \$.75 Per Mile for Trips in Excess of 8 Miles**
- **Extend the Service Area to Entire County**

## **Benefits:**

- **Establishes Same Base Fare for All Trips**
- **Reduces Fare for Most Common Trip**
- **Increases Service Area**
- **Offsets Cost of Longer Trips**

## **Federal & State Match Requirements:**

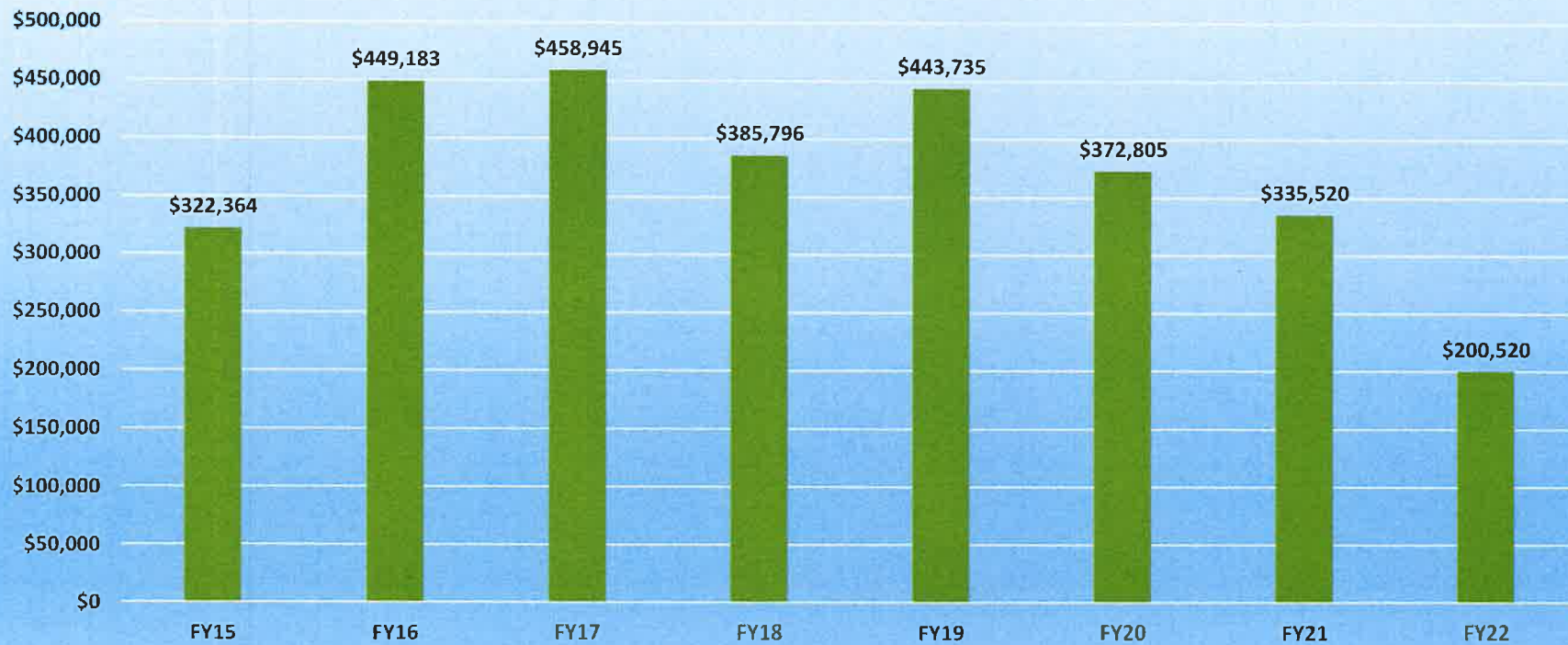
- **To Fund Operations: 44%**
- **To Fund Capital Expenditures: 20%**
- **To Fund Preventive Maintenance and Administration: 10% - 20%**



## **CC Rider's Sources of Match Funding:**

- **NEMT Rides**
- **Group Ticket Sales**
- **Contracts (ie. PCC)**
- **State Transportation Funds (STF)**
- **Contributions from County Economic Development Fund**

# Available Match Funding:

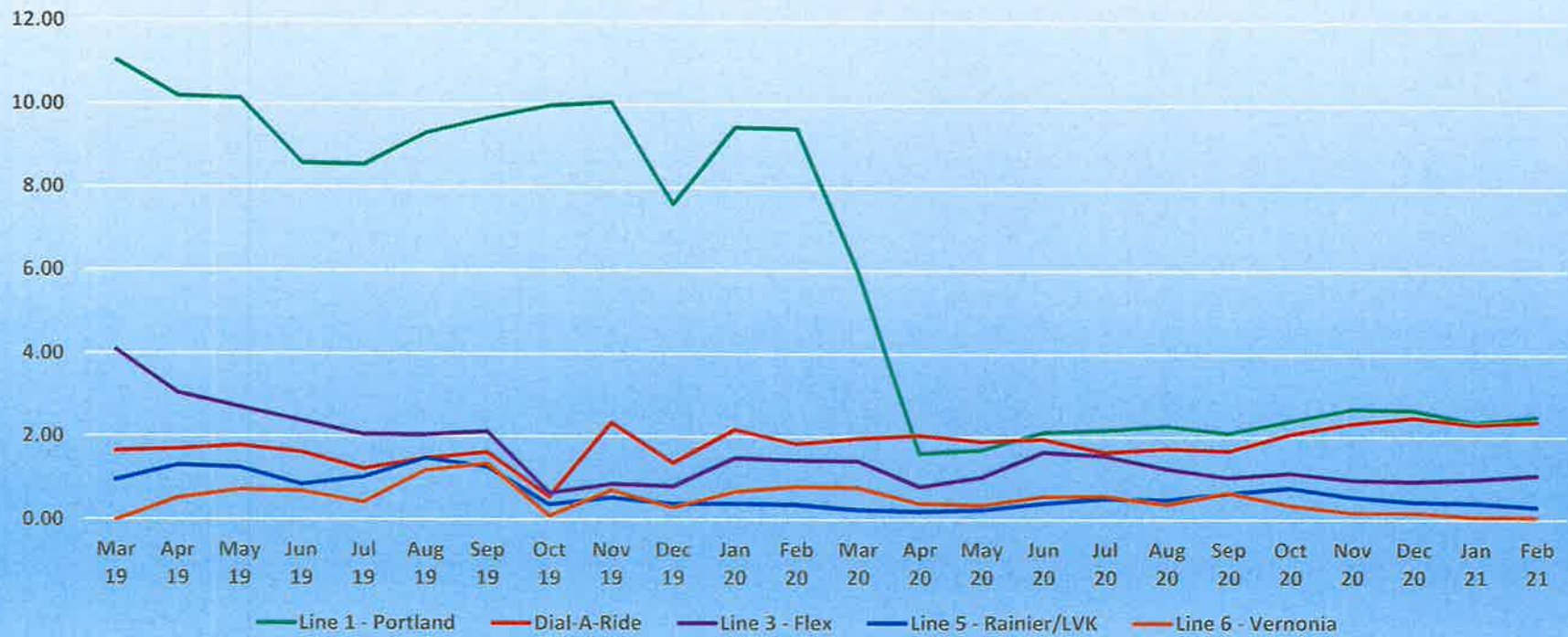


# **State Transportation Improvement Fund: (STIF)**

- **Payroll Tax for Transit**
- **STF Will be Merged with STIF in FY24**
- **CC Rider is Using STIF Funds to Pay For:**
  - **100% of Line 3 – Flex**
  - **100% of Line 6 – Vernonia/Banks/Willow Creek**
  - **55% of Line 5 – Rainier/Longview**
  - **33% of Dial-A-Ride**
- **Can be used as Match for Federal Grants**

# Rides Per Hour of Service

## Mar 2019 – Feb 2021



# Rides Per Hour of Service

## Mar 2019 – Feb 2021



# **Proposed Response to Match Challenge:**

- **Suspend**
  - **Line 3 Flex Service**
  - **Line 5 Rainier/Longview Service**
  - **Line 6 Vernonia/Banks/Willow Creek Service**
  
- **Focus STIF Funding on Match for**
  - **Line 1 Service Federal Grants**
  - **Dial-A-Ride Federal Grants**

## **Benefit:**

- **Focuses Available Match Funding on Services with Highest Ridership and Highest Need**



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## Questions?

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