**COLUMBIA COUNTY CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND**
**STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND COMMITTEE**
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** June 16, 2026

**Time:** 4:00 P.M.

**Place:** Columbia County Transit Center, St Helens, OR

**Present:** Dennis Spitze, Denise Watson, Angela Rose, Nicolle Tasoulas

**Absent:** Pam Heimuller

**Staff:** Chris Wheatley, Transit Director; Heather Shaw, Admin Assistant

**Guests:** Megan Wirtz

**Call to Order (CCRTAC & STIFC):** Vice Chair Spitze called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

**Approval of May Minutes:** The Committee approved the May 19, 2026 meeting minutes unanimously.

**Public Comments:** The Committee paused for public comment, and none was given.

**Federal Grant Application:** Mr. Wheatley shared that he has been working on the 2027/2029 federal grant applications. He shared what steps are required to complete the grant application process. Member Watson made a motion to present the federal grant application to the Columbia County Commissioners. All members approved the motion to move forward. Mr. Wheatley shared that he hopes he can present the applications to the Commissioners soon.

**Community Resource Fair Event:** Members discuss the resource event that is taking place on July 10th from 11am to 3pm at the Rainier Transit Center. Guest Wirtz shares that RiverCities will not attend the event because they plan to cut service to Rainier in September. Members discuss the activities and prizes that they would like to see at the event. Guest Wirtz shares that she will promote the event and talk to more agencies to see if they would be interested in having a table at the event. Mr. Wheatley shared that KOHI will be at the event and will record a show while there. Guest Wirtz mentioned that there will be a bus at the event for kids to check out, ride the lift and get familiar with the bus. She shared that she would like to have a table that is focused on what there is to do in Rainier.

**Line 1/Rainier:** Mr. Wheatley shared that he is thinking about changing what time Line 1 goes to Rainier. This change is being considered because there is no need to connect with RiverCities after they cancel their Rainier service in September. Mr. Wheatley mentioned that the focus will now be getting people from Rainier to Portland. Members discuss how changing the time the bus goes to Rainier could increase

the number of riders. Member Watson asked about the RiverCities bus stop near Fat Jacks and asked if CC Rider could use it. Mr. Wheatley mentioned that a trial run would have to be done to see if time would allow for an additional stop. He also mentioned that he wants to change the time we are in Rainier but not add more miles to the route.

**Parade Participation:** Mr. Wheatley shared that he is participating in the Kiwanis parade on the 20th in St. Helens. He mentioned that he is transporting the St. Helens High School band to the parade, and the buses will be following the band in the parade.

**Committee Roundtable:** Mr. Wheatley shared that CC Rider is providing a shuttle to Senior Day at the Fair again this year. He mentioned that he will be visiting senior centers, assisted living facilities and others this week to drop off sign up sheets. Mr. Wheatley shared that 60 people signed up to ride the shuttle last year, but many canceled due to the heat.

Vice Chair Spitze asked about the new Utility Worker. Mr. Wheatley shared that he started last week and is doing great. Mr. Wheatley mentioned that one of the drivers that was on medical leave will be returning this week. Member Watson shared that she spoke to Commissioner Smith and shared with her that Transit doesn't feel like they are being heard. Mr. Wheatley mentioned that part of the audit a few months ago included that we now need to have more involvement from the Commissioners. There is now a form that he will fill out frequently and send to the Commissioners, so they are aware of what is happening with Transit.

**Adjourn:** Vice Chair Spitze adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.