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

Meeting Date: September 15, 2026

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: Columbia County Transit Center, St Helens, OR

Present: Dennis Spitze, Denise Watson (Virtual), Angela Rose, Nicolle Tasoulas

Absent: Pam Heimuller

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

Guests: Kathleen Mattson, Megan Wirtz (Virtual), "Bus EMPTY Seats" (Virtual), Aire (Virtual), "Money Pit" (Virtual)

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

Approval of June Minutes: The Committee approved the June 16, 2026 meeting minutes unanimously.

Public Comments: Guest Mattson shared that she's from Clatskanie and is attending the meeting to see what she can do about getting service to her area.

STIF Planning: Mr. Wheatley stated that the STIF applications are due in January and he wants to start the application process early. Mr. Wheatley briefly explains what the STIF grant is, and what it can be used for. He mentioned that he wants to get input from the committee about the projects they would like to see for this year's grant. Mr. Wheatley shared that he then takes those ideas and looks into how much each project would take to complete. He will then bring that information back to the committee, where they will vote on what projects to formally submit. Mr. Wheatley mentioned that the fiscal year for the state has been changed to match federal government's fiscal year.

Guest Mattson suggests that service to Clatskanie be added to the project list. She shared that when she first moved to Clatskanie, she was excited to see that CC Rider had service there, only to find out later that the service had been cancelled. She also asked about getting service from Clatskanie to the Portland Airport. Mr. Wheatley stated that the closest CC Rider gets to the airport is downtown Portland, near the max stop that goes to the airport.

Mr. Wheatley added more runs into Portland, service to Vernonia and a Flex route to the list of projects. He shared that the Van Pool project will not be on the list this time. Mr. Wheatley explained what a flex route is, and where that service was offered in the past. Guest Aire shared that they have a friend in

Vernonia who would benefit from service there. Mr. Wheatley also suggested adding PCC Rock Creek and more medical runs to Portland, Hillsboro, and North County to the list. Members and guests discuss a Saturday shopper route and Warren service.

Mr. Wheatley shared that he will bring the official list back to the committee next month, and then the list will move to the Commissioners for approval to go to the State. Mr. Wheatley shared some information about a grant that would allow for CC Rider to have bikes and scooters at the Transit Center. These would be similar to services offered in larger cities like Portland.

<u>2027-2029 Project list:</u>

- Line 1
    - Add Warren and Sauvie Island stop
    - More runs
    - Extend to Clatskanie
- Dial-a-Ride to Vernonia
- Preventative Maintenance
- North County/Clatskanie
- Flex Route- St. Helens and Scappoose
- Vernonia
- Saturday Shopper
- Senior Shopper

Halloweentown: Mr. Wheatley shared that he tried to get involved with Halloweentown last year, but the company putting on the event didn't want to work with him. He spoke with the South Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and the Main Street Alliance to provide a shuttle for the event. The price to run the shuttle is $6,000. Mr. Wheatley shared that InRoads Credit Union is sponsoring half the amount, and the Chamber is gathering other businesses to sponsor the rest. The shuttle will operate on Saturday and Sunday from 1-5. The goal of the shuttle is to get people up to the Houlton district. Mr. Wheatley shared that he anticipates the shuttle to be busy, so there will be a second bus on standby if needed.

Committee Roundtable: Mr. Wheatley shared some information about CC Riders' involvement in getting those affected by the fire at Broadleaf apartments to the fairgrounds. Guest Writz shared that RiverCities Transit is no longer going to provide service to Rainier. This is due to the lack of riders, and they would like to move the funding to other projects.

Guest Mattson shared that she is willing to be a contact person to get more service to Clatskanie. Member Watson suggested conducting a survey to see what kind of service people would use in Clatskanie. Members discuss events that CC Rider helped with in 2026, and the success of those events.

Mr. Wheatley shared that NWOTA created $30 weekly passes that allow riders to ride from Portland to the Coast, and unlimited rides at the coast and on Line 1 for the week of the pass.

Adjourn: Vice Chair Spitze adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.