

## **FLORENCE TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES – February 17, 2016**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm by Chair Craig.

### **ROLL CALL**

Committee members: Bill Craig, Don Patton, Jane Ashley, Stan Easter and Sandi Young were present.

Ex-officio members: Susan Hekimoglu (LTD), Josh and Michelle Haring and Rick Dias (River Cities Taxi) were present.

City Councilors: Mayor Henry and Councilor Preisler were present.

Support Staff: Glen Southerland, Florence Planning Department was present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** Young moved to approve, seconded by Ashley. By voice, all ayes. Agenda approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** October 21, 2015, November 18, 2015 and December 16, 2015. Patton moved to approve as written, seconded by Easter. By voice, all ayes. Minutes approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** None

### **ROUTE CHANGES UPDATE/OPERATIONS**

All persons present toured a new LTD bus similar to that proposed for the Rhody Express replacement bus in Fall 2016. This model has 3 wheelchair anchor positions, lowers for easier boarding, and has large windows and theater type seating. Haring and Dias spoke at length with the LTD bus representative and decided that they would prefer moveable seating. There was discussion about the color/graphics for the bus exterior. Hekimoglu said that bus applications are due at ODOT on March 11, 2016. If successful, the new Rhody Express bus would be ordered shortly after July 1, 2016 for delivery in Fall 2016. She said that the current bus would remain in Florence for backup and special events. Craig asked if it could be used part-time for employee routes. Hekimoglu said that funding would need to be found for the added expense. Craig appointed a Bus Amenities committee: Ashley, Haring, Dias and Hekimoglu.

**Bus Driver Report:** This is a new feature of TAC meetings. Dias will be attending regularly, since there is now a qualified relief driver. He said, regarding the request for service by the McKenzie Clinic, that a stop there could add up to 15 minutes to the route, especially during summer months when traffic is heavy on Hwy 101. He and Haring spoke about the new entrance at the hospital. It passes under a roof structure. Cars dropping off patients can block access. They are hopeful that the present side entrance will remain available as a secondary entrance since it functions better for the bus. Haring said that if the shelter and bench at the 380 Building are moved out to the sidewalk at the crosswalk, they could pick up both 380 and hospital riders in one stop.

**Benches:** Craig reported that the preferred location at the library is to the right side of the main door (streetside). The library will pay for the installation. Craig will see that the installation is completed. The location of the bench at the Dollar Tree is in the ROW at the rear of the store.

The best location is between the driveway and the utility pole. A pad will be necessary for the installation.

## **PROMOTIONS AND MARKETING/ TAC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Discussion on tasks in the next 30 days:

(1) Haring said that Shaun Sisson has quoted \$3600 for even a reduced version of a video/PowerPoint presentation. That is not feasible within the current budget. It was decided to focus on print and radio for now, in addition to the Facebook page. The Chamber is currently updating their website. Haring has rewritten the Rhody Express info, and it is on the new website. Haring and Dias will approach the high school to see if they can do a Rhody Express video for use in the schools.

(2) Craig reported that three (3) merchants from MOOT are interested in the ride free program, and also in providing a discount for riders. LTD agreed to provide materials for the sponsored ride program prior to the next TAC meeting. Craig will meet with the local Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) on March 12 to talk about the ride free program. He will meet with the Chamber also. Patton said that Greentrees is interested in participating in the program. Hekimoglu displayed a poster for the ride free program that can be modified easily to insert the name of the sponsor. She asked that we look for a large size laminator in Florence with jpeg capability to facilitate printing of the posters.

## **TAC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - 2016**

Hekimoglu spoke about the first Lane County TSP meeting. The TSP will include transit goals and objectives and plans, likely to include a Florence/Eugene connection. Young, Patton and Southerland attended that meeting. She said there are no new developments on the Florence/Yachats connection.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

Young displayed an article from the Register Guard regarding Senate Bill 1521, which would allow transit district boards to impose a tax of 0.185 percent (\$1.85/\$1000) directly on workers' pay, if their district already collects a payroll tax from the businesses that employ them. While the projection is that it will not pass in this year's short session, it is a 'heads up' for the next general session.

## **SET FUTURE MEETING DATE**

March 16, 2016 at 1:30 pm at City Hall.

**Meeting adjourned** at 3:08 pm.

**APPROVED BY THE TAC ON THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.**

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Bill Craig, Chairperson