

# FLORENCE TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Ashley.

## ROLL CALL:

Committee members: Jane Ashley, Chairperson; Don Patton, Vice Chairperson; Stan Easter; Nan Harvey; Josh Haring; and Ivy Medow

Ex-officio members: John Ahlen, LTD by teleconference

Support Staff: Glen Southerland, Florence Planning Department

Guest: Kathy Perkins, CTCLUSI

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 15, 2017: Motion by Easter, seconded by Harvey. By voice, all ayes. Minutes of March 15, 2017 approved.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no comments.

## ROUTE CHANGE UPDATE/OPERATIONS:

Ridership: It was noted that ridership is increasing and there were some days in the last month when the bus was filled to capacity for portions of the run(s).

Staff: A relief bus driver has been hired and is expected on the payroll starting in May. There was a brief discussion about taxi v. bus drivers, their compensation and benefits, and ADA training and compliance which is mandated in order to receive Federal 5311 funds, though the training is not funded per se.

Yachats Connection: Another community forum is scheduled for April 27 at City Council Chambers in Florence. Another is planned for May 16, location TBD. Service is on schedule to start July 1. Surveys to be developed with a focus on electronic format for ease of data management and reporting. Efforts are being made to talk with State Parks about involvement with the route for mutual benefit.

Wings and Wheels: Also July 1, which happens to be the first Saturday in July, free rides to/from Military Museum from 10-3. Southerland handling paperwork.

## PROMOTION AND MARKETING:

Advertising: Committee members will continue to seek sponsors for Rhody Express, \$50 for a day of advertising on the bus back.

Green Fair: It was unanimously agreed that Rhody Express would not pursue a booth at the Green Fair.

Draft marketing plan: This item was distributed for the benefit of new committee members. It was agreed that we would review and discuss at the next meeting.

Expanding Ridership Markets: Haring expressed interest in marketing to schools.

Rhody Days: Haring bus will provide services to and from Bay Street from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights. Haring also reported on plans to put bus in Rhody Day Parade, fully decorated with rare rhododendrons.

### **OTHER ITEMS:**

May Meeting cancelled: Southerland suggested that the May meeting be cancelled in light of events taking place in May, particularly Rhody Days, and that the next meeting be scheduled for June 21, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. Motion by Medow to cancel May meeting, second by Easter. By voice, all ayes. Motion passes.

Florence/Eugene Connection: Ahlen stated that LCOG is still waiting to hear back from ODOT regarding status of a grant for planning efforts.

### **SET FUTURE AGENDA:**

Discussion of Marketing Plan

Discussion/Debrief of Rhody Days

Update after community forums on Yachats connectivity

Other Items: The Committee proposed that Kathy Perkins come back in June and present on needs of the Confederated Tribes.

**Next meeting**: June 21, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., Florence City Hall Council Chambers.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

**APPROVED BY THE TAC ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Patton, Vice Chairperson

# County bus route extending south

BY GLORIA TUCKER  
Of the News-Times

LINCOLN COUNTY - Yachats is no longer the end of the line for bus riders traveling south.

A \$290,110 state grant to the Lane Transit District (LTD) will fund a pilot project connecting Yachats to Florence beginning July 1. The new service is funded through June 30, 2018.

"The grant includes funding for outreach and gauging interest in this service as well as the service itself," Therese Lang, LTD public information officer, said in an email.

Specifically for the project, LTD plans to purchase a 25-foot accessible cutaway bus with additional capacity for bicycles that can seat 15 people and make approximately 30 round trips per week.

"The exact route, timing, and stops of the pilot project are not set in stone," John Ahlen, LTD accessible services specialist, said in an email. "The route is intended to best meet the needs of the communities it serves, and to do that requires close collaboration with stakeholders."

A group of stakeholders, including Lincoln and Lane County Transit employees, city representatives and riders, have been meeting in the past months to plan the route.

Yachats liaison Barbara Frye said the meetings so far on the project have focused on where the bus will stop.

"We're talking about where it's going to stop along the way and what's the end point at each of the runs," Frye said. "I had thought of Tenmile as being really isolated. I'm also kind of pushing for stopping at the state parks. We think that would be great for tourists, but there has to be a space for the bus to pull over

and for people to walk across the highway."

She said should the bus stop at the hospital in Florence, it could mean fewer runs a day since a longer route means fewer trips.

"Most interest has been expressed in service that would go between Third Street in Yachats (Near Planet Yachats), the southernmost point of current service in Yachats, and Grocery Outlet in Florence, the center of the north and south loops of the Rhody Express service in Florence," Ahlen said.

As for connecting with the Pacific Crest bus line, which also stops in Florence and travels to Coos Bay, Ahlen said it's a possibility, provided schedules line up.

"There are plenty of opportunities for public feedback on the pilot project," he said. "We have already begun holding stakeholder meetings, which will continue monthly in rotating locations (including Yachats) through the planning phase of the project, and continuing for feedback once the pilot project is underway. Upcoming meeting dates are being held on April 27 and May 16."

The meeting locations are still to be determined, but one will be in Yachats and another in either Florence or Eugene.

Anyone interested in receiving information about the project or attending an upcoming stakeholder meeting should contact Ahlen at [john.ahlen@ltd.org](mailto:john.ahlen@ltd.org).

"We are excited to connect the last stretch of highway along the West Coast that currently does not have transit service," he added. "We have heard from community members that they are looking forward to greater connectivity to health care, shopping, recreation and employment opportunities."

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