

**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee**  
**State Transportation Fund (STF) Advisory Committee**  
**January 12, 2021; 12:00 PM**

**Agenda**

**Minutes:** *The meeting was by telephone call in. With people waiting their turn to speak. The meeting started at 12:00 with a quorum of 2, Daniel Ham and Marion Mercier, and Virginia Kimsey-Roof came on about ten minutes later.*

**A. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**1. Committee Background. The Transportation Advisory Committee.**

*Transit Manager Kim Rogers went over the following points: The Committee was created to fulfill the requirements for the Tribe to access Oregon's Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF) under which each tribe can receive \$100,000 a year for transit from payroll tax. The Tribe had already created the Special Transportation Fund (STF) advisory committee required by the state to access their STF funds and to make decisions on other transit funding from ODOT including their federal pass thru funding (5310 & 5311). This new Transportation Advisory Committee is a sub-committee of the Elders Committee with its own By-Laws.*

**2. Committee Members.**

*Mr. Rogers said the committee is to have no less than 3 and no more than 5 members. The committee had three but two left, leaving only Daniel Ham but the Elders Committee Chair had now appointed two members to fill those vacancies: Virginia Kimsey-Roof and Marion Mercier.*

**3. Committee Officers. Election of Officers:**

**Chairperson.** *Committee member Marion Mercier nominated Daniel Ham as Chair and he agreed if Marion would be Vice Chair. The vote was 2-0 for Daniel Ham as Chairman.*

**Vice-Chairperson.** *The vote was 2-0 for Marion Mercier as Vice-Chairwoman.*

**B. EXISTING TRANSIT ROUTE OVERVIEW**

*Mr. Rogers gave an overview of the background on our current transit routes. That the state began allocating public transit formula funding to Tribes and the Tribe also began applying for competitive federal Tribal Transit funding in 2006 and 2007 and the Tribe completed its first Transit Plan in 2007. The Tribe began contracting with Yamhill County Transit Area (YCTA) to extend their route that ended in Willamina on out to Grand Ronde and to increase the number of round trips offered. The Tribe also contracted with Cherriots for a route from Salem to Grand Ronde. Federal funding changed to a formula which then went to all tribes and Grand Ronde's funding sum fell dramatically. Not long thereafter ODOT approved adding Grand Ronde to their 5311 rural transit funds.*

*The Lincoln County obtained State funds to prepare plans for service to Salem (Coast to Valley) but upon winning the operations grant Lincoln gave it to Tillamook County Transportation District to implement. This included weekend service to Salem which otherwise did not exist.*

*The Tribe updated its Transit Plan in 2019 and added service to Lincoln City and future service to Dallas. With Cherriots operating a Grand Ronde to Salem route and Tillamook operating a route Coast to Salem, Cherriots decided to opt out of the Grand Ronde to Salem route which was then picked up by Tillamook.*

**Mr. Rogers** provided ridership data on the routes and how they were impacted by COVID.

<b><u>Review of Ridership</u></b>	<b><u>April-Sept 2019</u></b>	<b><u>April-Sept 2020 COVID</u></b>
a. YCTA Route to McMinnville	5240	3951
b. Grand Ronde to Salem 70X	2773	1243
c. Lincoln city to GR to Salem 60X	4060	1913

### **C. NEW TRANSIT ROUTES OVERVIEW**

**Mr. Rogers** noted that with the STIF funds the Tribe was to increase service and Council had chosen to add service to Dallas. He note that the Tribe contracted with Kittelson & Associates to do work with us on the Transit plan and then the Tribe added Dallas route planning to their contract and that we'd look to include local Grand Ronde circulator trips between the trips to Dallas using these STIF funds. He also noted that the Tribe was awarded a federal Tribal Transit grant for two new small buses (\$250,000) for this route.

**Vice-Chairwoman Mercier** asked if these were to be Tribally owned and operated buses?

**Mr. Rogers** responded that the Tribe planned to make the buses part of the contract for the local circulator/Dallas route which is planned to again be with the Tillamook County Transportation District as it is for the 60X & 70X routes. (A flyer was sent to the Committee members on the buses the week prior to the meeting.)

During this time Committee Member Virginia Roof joined the meeting. Prior to the meeting **Committee Member Roof** asked about the buses on the flyer not having a rear safety exist.

**Mr. Rogers** called Tillamook Transportation District (TCTD) and reported that they do have a rear exit option the Tribe would be ordering as TCTD did on their recent order of three buses.

**Mr. Rogers** noted at the meeting that the Tribe has not ordered the buses yet largely due to COVID-19 delays.

**Mr. Rogers** said that the Tribe also purchased four bus stop shelters that are in storage for four stops in Grand Ronde. He discussed each site and noted he has discussed the planned sites with the main affected parties including – the minister for the First Methodist Church, the Social Services Dept. Manager, Housing for their Wind River Apartments Tyee shelter, and the

*Wandering Spirit RV park about the shelter planned there. He noted that there were some questions expressed on the Wandering Spirit location, whether ridership was high enough there since it was added by YCTA many months ago.*

*Mr. Rogers concluded that the current STIF plan was approved by the STIF committee over a year ago and a new STIF Plan application is due 2/1/21.*

#### **D. COVID-19 & PUBLIC TRANSIT**

*Mr. Rogers mentioned that the Tribe had been allocated \$50,000 in ODOT transit funds for COVID-19 and federal Transit has allocated the Tribe \$99,998 for COVID-19.*

*Chairman Ham asked about allowed uses of the funds.*

*Mr. Rogers reported that they can be used to support existing routes to help pay for higher costs on current routes and for loss in operating funds from less fare revenue. He noted that the expenses mostly go out as payments to our transit vendors.*

#### **E. TRANSIT ACTION ITEM (Approximately 12:25 PM)**

ODOT Statewide Transportation Fund (STIF) Plan / Grant application

*Mr. Rogers went over the new grant program. That the State had passed a bill to add a new payroll tax that supports public transit and that CTGR employees pay that tax. He said that the Tribe is to receive \$100,000 a year but to access the funding the Tribe has to prepare and adopt a STIF Plan on the proposed use of the funds. He noted that the current STIF plan is to add transit service between Dallas and Grand Ronde and creation of a local collector/circulator service in Grand Ronde. The Wind River bus stop in Tribal housing helps since it is in Yamhill County's federal (low income) empowerment zone.*

*Chairman Ham (no?) asked about where the bus went in Dallas.*

*Mr. Rogers said that there were planned stops at Safeway and downtown and fairly close to the High School. The STIF grant program has to include low-income benefit and benefit to youth. The application includes an estimated 10% benefit to high school age students there. There are low-income households in Grand Ronde but far less low income people than in Dallas.*

*He said that the Tribe's STIF Plan /application is due by 2/1/21 and that the Advisory Committee needs to provide its recommendation on adoption whether that was as is, or with changes.*

*Mr. Rogers noted that the Tribe's funding to date can be continued over as future funding on top of the new funding allocation of \$100,000 coming this year and the next few years after that.*

#### **Tribal Draft STIF Plan for 21-25**

*Mr. Rogers recommended that the Tribe apply for the next biennium and for the one after that for use of these STIF funds for the Dallas route and the local collector route as originally*

*planned. The State appears to be keeping all tribes at the same \$100,000 per year base funding, no adjustment for inflation. The Tribe applied to FTA for 2 buses for this route but that estimate is now two years old. The Tribe has four bus stop shelters for this route but has not set them yet. To address all of these he said staff is recommending the **attached** budget allocation which was sent to members the week prior to the meeting. That included adding \$50,000 for the cost of the buses, \$25,000 to bus stop shelter site design, and \$50,000 to shelter installation. It also includes \$15,000 for an operations reserve for 2022-23 and \$85,000 to carry over into 2024-25 and then to carryover \$40,000 on into 2026-27.*

**Public input:** Today's meeting was advertised in the 1/1/21 issue of the Grand Ronde Tribal newspaper as a call in meeting (due to COVID-19), instead of the normal open public meeting during the noon hour at the Elders Activity Center, and this was approved by our ODOT transit grant rep. The public was able to call the Tribe's Transit Manager / Planning & Grants Manager for the call in number and code for the meeting and to have informational materials sent to them.

The number of callers obtaining the call in number was: *none called in answer to the newspaper*  
The public responses received by email were: *None by public. Two came from the Committee. —*  
The public responses received by telephone to be passed on were: *None from the public.*

The number of callers on the telephone during this meeting was: 4

Including: 3 Committee Members, 1 staff, -0- public, -0- others.

There will be a 1/15/21 STIF notice in Smoke Signals on these funds. Comments will be taken from these contacts as well, if any.

**Staff Recommendation:**

That the STIF Advisory Committee recommends adoption of the plan.

**Vote:** 3 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstain

**Minutes/Comments/Notes**

*Members discussed wanting more information on the buses and bus stops as it becomes available but that they were OK with the plan for now and that when more information is known the Tribe can still amend the STIF Plan if it chooses to.*

*Members asked about the next steps. Mr. Rogers said he would send minutes to the Committee to ensure they were correct and then the STIF Plan application would be presented to Council for approval and if approved the Tribe would then apply for the funds the following week.*

**F. TRANSIT DISCUSSION ITEM**

**Planned locations for our four bus stop shelters here in Grand Ronde.** These have been purchased and are in storage but have not been sited yet. They will serve the local connector/collector route but two\* will also serve all our existing routes.

Tyee Road & Wind River Lane – (Tribal Road system)  
\*Community Services Center – (Tribal Road, Salmon Way)  
\*United Methodist Church – (Grand Ronde Road, Polk County)  
Wandering Spirit – (ODOT Hwy 18)

*While these were covered under the STIF Plan application above there was further discussion.*

*Vice-Chairwoman Mercier was interested in considering a shelter at the park and ride at the Willamina exit but was concerned for now with the homeless campers on both sides of the river there which she said appeared to have reduced use of that park and ride for the near future.*

**Committee Member Roof** noted there are riders who wait across the street from the Church at the bench there and get on there and ride up to the campus area and if the stop at Wandering Spirit would not be used much maybe there should be two stops there, one by the church and one across the street for going the opposite direction.

## **G. OTHER UPCOMING TRANSIT ITEMS**

1. **Next Transportation Advisory Committee meeting: 2/9/21.** Same format. The meeting will be advertised in the 1/15 and 2/1 Smoke Signals and the public can call for the call in number and access code and items can be emailed them for review.
2. **ODOT Special Transportation Fund application.** (Due 3/1/21)  
Biennial funding State revenue used as matching funds on ODOT federal pass thru grants to the Tribe and as match (per our agreement with) on Tillamook County Transportation District's Coastal Connector grant.
3. **ODOT federal 5310 pass thru application.** (Due 3/1/21)  
Tribe's biennial allocation used to help cover the McMinnville and Salem routes.
4. **ODOT federal 5311 pass thru application.** (Due 3/1/21)  
Tribe's biennial allocation used to help cover the McMinnville and Salem routes.
5. **Tribe's Federal Transit Administration annual report.**
6. **Tribe's Federal Transit Administration National Transit Data (NTD) report.**
7. **Tribe's 2021 Certifications and Assurances.**
8. **Tribes' Annual Community Input Meeting** was cancelled this past June due to COVID. Members of this Committee normally "man" the Transit open house table.
9. **Other Business:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Adjourn**

**Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
January 12, 2020**

**Attendance Roll Call (Sign-In) List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Committee Member/staff</b>
<i>Jim Rogers</i>	<i>Transit Manager (role)</i>
<i>DANIEL HAM</i>	<i>Committee Chairman</i>
<i>MARION MERCIER</i>	<i>Committee Vice Chairwoman</i>
<i>VIRGINIA KINSY-ROOF</i>	<i>Committee Member</i>

**Name**

**Public Call In Participants**

*Nobody called in*

*Nobody e-mailed*

*IN ANSWER to our public notice*