

Cowlitz Transit Authority Planning Committee

Meeting Report

City Shop Break Room; 2nd Floor

June 22, 2015

12:00 PM- 2:00PM

Board Members Present: Don Jensen

Staff Present: Amy Asher, Brad Windler, Jeff Cameron, Tabitha Hayden

The purpose of this planning committee is to work with staff on specific planning topics that were identified during the March Planning Committee meeting.

1) Review Planning Committee Held in March

Amy Asher briefly recapped the discussion topics from the first Planning Committee meeting. This including what staff has accomplished the 2010 Transit Enhancement Plan accomplishments to date; using the summary of recommended changes from the Executive Summary as an outline. Jeff Cameron provided an update on the facilities study being conducted by TCF Architecture.

2) Goals and Performance Standards

The Cowlitz Transit Enhancement Plan Final Report Chapter 5 discusses Performance Indicators. Common measures that many transit systems use include:

- Number of trips
- Total cost to provide the service
- Miles traveled per hour
- Cost per trip
- Passenger miles traveled

The proposed standards are intended to advance a series of strategic goals for the system as a whole including fixed route, paratransit and vanpool. Those goals may include the cost per hour/rider, farebox recovery, rides per capita, and system speed.

Staff will bring proposed performance standard categories to the July board meeting for board discussion.

3) RiverCities Transit Fares

Brad Windler shared a spreadsheet showing a comparison of fares with like sized agencies. RiverCities fares are the lowest in the state. Brad also handed out a spreadsheet comparing the demographics of similar sized transit agencies.

Fares may be used to offset operational expenses, bus maintenance, and capital depreciation. RiverCities needs a viable financing plan for grant matching to move forward on facilities planning.

Brad shared three different fare increase scenarios. Staff recommends the highest option. Member Jensen suggested that going forward we may want to begin tying the fares to Portland CPI to reduce the need to do drastic fare increases.

Brad also cautioned that there may be a short term negative impact on ridership after increasing fares.

Staff will bring proposed fare increases to the July board meeting for board discussion.