

Coalition for Public Transportation

Meeting Date: Dec. 19, 2005

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: St. Luke's Meridian

Meeting Notes:

Co-chair Chuck Winder welcomed the group before turning the meeting over to Dan Stevens.

Each member of the coalition talked about the arguments for and against public transportation. The comments will be compiled and presented at a future meeting.

Previous Meeting Summary

Ray Stark provided a quick summary of the coalition's Nov. 28 meeting.

Kelli Fairless discussed the handouts and fact sheets provided to members.

Transportation System Information – Public transportation in other regions

A PowerPoint presentation by Kelli Fairless provided information about the public transportation systems in other cities, including the different types of services that they offer and how those systems are funded.

Transportation System Information – Valley Regional Transit Public Transportation Plan

A PowerPoint presentation by Kelli provided information about Valley Regional Transit's Regional Operations and Capital Improvement Plan. The plan includes both a short-range route restructuring plan implemented this year in Ada and Canyon counties and a long-range (six-year) plan for a regional transportation system. The long-range plan offers both a low-capacity and high-capacity option based on the level of funding.

Kelli explained that because of changes in how federal dollars can be spent as a region grows, VRT faces a \$1.2 million deficit in operating expenses for the Boise/Garden City bus system by fiscal year 2008. That funding restriction could include the Nampa/Caldwell system in the year 2013 if all local municipalities are group into one metropolitan area as a result of the 2010 Census.

Peer System Fact-Finding

Members discussed a proposal to send small groups of coalition members to other regions to learn more about how they built their public transportation systems and the problems and pitfalls that they faced. Coalition participants would receive a briefing book prior to leaving and would report back to the coalition.

Members agreed that proper planning would be important prior to fact-finding trips and that some research could be done by reviewing informational materials provided by targeted transit systems.

Coalition members agreed to further discuss the proposed fact-finding trips at its meeting in February 2006. There appeared to be a preference to plan the meetings so that legislators on the coalition would be available to go.

Wrap-up

The group provided the following list of information requests:

- What are the different local funding options and how much would each option raise.

- What cities and communities in the Treasure Valley could provide in terms of funding a regional public transportation system.
- If the fact-finding trips were scheduled, what are the criteria participants would be reviewing?

Coalition members in attendance

Co-chair Chuck Winder, The Winder Co./Idaho Transportation Dept.

Co-chair Dan Stevens, Home Federal Bank

Steve Ahrens, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry

Jon Allen, The Allen Group

Dick Armstrong (for Ray Flachbart), Blue Cross of Idaho

Jean Basom, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center

Todd Boothe, R.C. Willey

Bob Bruce, CH2M Hill

Ralph Burton, Amalgamated Sugar Co.

Mark Dunham, Boise State University

Gary Fletcher, St. Luke's

Ralph Hallquist, Meadow Gold Dairy

John Hanousek, Hewlett-Packard

Chuck Hedemark, Capital City Development Corporation

Dale Higer, Stoel Rives

Don Hubble, Hubble Homes

State Rep. Margaret Henbest

George Iliff, Colliers International

Clarence Jones, Meridian Development Corporation

State Rep. Jana Kemp

Larry Matney, Alliance Title

Mandy Meyers, T-Mobile Customer Care Center

M. C. Niland, WITCO/Nampa Chamber

State Rep. Mark Snodgrass

Jim Tomlinson, Tomlinson and Associates

Chris Veloz, Northwest Sales

Ex officio members in attendance:

Lance Giles, Governor's Office

Resource Group members in attendance

Mark Carnopis, Valley Regional Transit

Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit

Ray Stark, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce

Jon Barrett, Idaho Smart Growth

Steve Purvis, City of Boise

Others in attendance

Robert Miller, Hewlett-Packard

Next meeting: TBA