



Rogue Valley Transportation District

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RVTD STIF Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday, August 6th, 2025 9:00am-10:30am

Attendance :

STIFAC: Sandra Padilla, Jim Norris, Natalie Mettler, Emile Amarotico, Jennie Christopherson, Cara Carter

RVTD: Edem Gomez, Paige West, Kelly Madding

Time	Lead	Topic	Materials
9:00	Committee Members	Meeting start-up - STIFAC Co-Chair Natalie Mettler started the meeting. - Roll Call and introductions. <u>Motion: Emile moved to approve May 19th, 2025 STIFAC Meeting Minutes, Cara seconded the motion. STIFAC approved the May 19th meeting minutes.</u>	5/19/2025 Minutes Approved
9:14	Paige West	- Paige provided a presentation to STIFAC regarding the current and upcoming RVTD budget constraints and proposed service reductions reflecting the budget constraints. The service reductions will be implemented on September 2, 2025. Service after September 2nd would include routes 10, 40, 60, 21 and new Route 4. - RVTD kept these routes due to ridership, being intercity, covering large portion of existing service area, and the riders they serve being low income and transit dependent. - The Route serving West Medford is a new route that is replacing the Routes in West Medford. These service reductions mean a 60% reduction of service miles and service hours and maintaining 40% of service miles and hours. The remaining routes serve 80% of RVTD ridership, some of the suspended routes have low ridership, RVTD kept higher ridership routes and routes that serve a majority of RVTD's ridership. - Service would be reduced to Monday-Friday only, no Saturday service would be operating after September 2nd. 64 RVTD employees will be laid off due to the budget cuts. Personnel cuts are felt across all departments at RVTD. - There will be a reduction to weekday daily operations with hours of service being 6:00am to 6:30pm, so there will be a service reduction to morning and evening service hours during the weekday.	RVTD Reduced Service and Funding Presentation

		• Valley Lift will also be impacted, with a smaller service area and no Saturday service. • Many of the routes that are being suspended are STIF funded Routes. • RVTD presented the hours of operations for the 6 routes that RVTD is preserving. Most routes will be 30-minute frequency except for Route 21 which will be 40-minute frequency. • Paige provided information on passenger feedback for which services were the priority. • The new Route 4, serving West Medford, route alignment was presented to the group. Route 4 will be a new route combining and replacing several routes currently serving West Medford. • The Route 24 would be realigned to a previous Route alignment; it will now begin and end at Front Street Station and it will no longer serve Golf View. • <u>Jennie Christopherson</u> asked if there is any possibility for the funding to return. Paige stated that we have received some of the Federal Funding we have been awaiting and we are awaiting additional Federal Funding later this year that we have not yet received. RVTD also receives State STIF Funds and a local property tax levy of \$0.13 which will be put up for renewal in May 2026. RVTD is unsure if that local levy will pass and instead of waiting to reduce additional service if the Levy does not pass, we would reduce service now. If the Levy does pass, we can resume some of the service that was reduced. • Paige reviewed the major sources of funding RVTD receives for service operation and the current delays in funding that both RVTD and the State of Oregon are experiencing due to new Federal practices. • Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has experienced a 30% reduction in staff, which has slowed the process for receiving and processing Federal grants. • State STIF revenues have been static, these funds are not indexed, even though the costs of operating service have greatly increased due to inflation and other increasing expenses. The State transportation bill which would have provided an increase in STIF funding did not pass in the legislature which has further impacted funds we would have received from the State of Oregon. • <u>Jennie Christopherson</u>: Would the proposed increases in STIF funds, from the State Transportation bill, have covered the increasing costs of providing transit service? If we come in	
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		under budget, does it roll over or is that funding gone? <u>Paige:</u> The amount we were hoping to receive from the increased STIF funding would have maintained the current service level. The funding for STIF does roll over for two biennia's so if we have funding that is remaining, we can push that remaining balance forward to the next biennium. • Paige provided information on RVTD's cash flow budget and that STIF revenues are down by 4%. • By "right-sizing" service we have temporarily solved the cash flow problem. • RVTD presented RVTD's passenger communications to notify and alert the public about the service cuts. • Edem presented on RVTD's communication tools, website and service alerts that are posted on the RVTD website. • <u>Jim Norris:</u> Would like to acknowledge how difficult these decisions are to make not only for the impact to passengers but for RVTD. With 64 RVTD employees losing their jobs it is very difficult.	
10:20	Paige West	• Paige presented on the proposed STIF Plan amendment to use/transition STIF funding for the service we will maintain after the service reductions. Paige described the policies that allow and limit how we can shift STIF funds for other projects. • RVTD proposes to shift current remaining STIF funding to the Route 10 which was already listed in the current STIF Plan and is eligible to receive additional funds that are not being used on the suspended services. • Sandra asked if there was a motion to approve the STIF Plan Amendment and Transfer of STIF Funds as presented. • <u>Motion:</u> <u>Emile</u> makes a motion to support the proposal to transfer STIF Funds to maintain the Route 10. <u>Natalie Mettler:</u> Seconds the motion. <u>Sandra:</u> Takes a vote, all approved, the motion passes.	• STIF Plan Amendment
10:28		Next Steps and Meeting Close-out <i>Edem:</i> RVTD may reconvene the STIFAC if there are additional changes or amendments to the STIF Plan. If there is no other business for STIFAC then the next meeting will be in 2026. <i>Sandra adjourned the meeting at 10:29am.</i>	