

**Rogue Valley Transportation District
Accessible Transportation Working Group Meeting
April 16th, 2026, 3:00pm – 5:00pm – Via Zoom Video Conference**

Attended:

- George Adams
- Robin Kissel
- Stanley Littrell
- Mickie Miner

Staff:

- Maria Carrillo, Accessible Transportation Coordinator
- Tim Fountain, Accessible Transportation Manager
- Paige West, Planning & Strategic Programs Manager
- Edem Gomez, Associate Planner

Absent:

- Adrienne Boutin
- Stephen Slavik
- Cory Benton, Translink Operations Manager

Welcome:

Meeting called order at 3:03pm.

Roll Call:

4 members were in attendance during roll call.

Review and Approve December 17th, 2025 Minutes:

Stanley Littrell made the motion to introduce December 17th, 2025 minutes, Robin Kissel 2nd, all in favor, motion passed at 3:05pm.

RideCo Software Update:

Tim reported that RideCo is doing well. Valley Lift went live with RideCo on March 9, 2026. Since then, on time performance for both pick-ups and drop-offs has improved during the month of April. The number of vehicles being used each day has also improved. Valley Lift has gone from using 17 vans to about 13 to 14 vans each day. Overall, RideCo has been working very well, and we have not experienced many issues.

We have also started advertising the Valley Lift Connect app to our clients and encourage them to use the app. The app allows clients to book and cancel rides, as well as see where their driver is located. So far, the app has been working very well, and the launch has gone smoothly.

George stated that receiving notifications when the driver is arriving has been very helpful.

Tim asked if any issues that come up be reported to Maria so they can be investigated and a solution can be found.

Paige stated that Valley Lift went through a difficult period with the previous software. There were many training requirements, and unfortunately, the software did not work out as expected.

Having RideCo as our software provider has proven to be a positive change. RideCo has given Valley Lift the tools and support we need to move forward and reach our goals.

5310 Evaluation:

Dalia and Anna joined the meeting from United Way. Paige presented the background and purpose of the funding solicitation. She then reviewed the applications and explained the evaluation process with the committee.

Paige wanted to share an update with the AWG Committee and explain that we have been working on a very quick timeline. ODOT published the announcement for these funds in February. Since then, we have had to move quickly to prepare the solicitation announcement and get the application process ready in March.

Today's meeting gives us the opportunity to review the applications and discuss the funding recommendations. Applications are due to ODOT by March (May) 14. The award recommendations made by the AWG Committee will be presented to our Board of Directors for consideration at next Wednesday's board meeting. The Board of Directors will make the final decision on the award recommendations.

Once the final awards are approved, we will need to complete another application that outlines the projects and funding amounts that were approved for this biennium.

George asked why we are not doing this process in November.

Paige explained that ODOT moved the solicitation cycle to Spring. One reason for the change was to better align the funding schedule with ODOT's timelines.

Paige then shared her screen to show the total funding available for the 2027–2029 biennium. She explained that there are three funding categories:

- STBG Funds
- Small Urban Formula Funds
- Rural Formula Funds

Paige explained that these funding programs fall under Federal Transit Administration 5310. The program is focused on supporting older adults and people with disabilities. The funds can only be used for projects and services that benefit these two populations.

Paige explained the different funding categories and the amount of funding available for the 2027–2029 biennium.

STBG (Surface Transportation Block Grant) is part of the federal transportation funding program. These funds can be used for many different transportation needs, including building bridges and highways, improving transportation systems, and providing preventive maintenance.

For this funding cycle, the funds must be used for either contracted services or capital projects. ODOT has chosen to set aside some of these funds for the 5310 programs.. For the biennium from October 1, 2027, through September 30, 2029, there is \$1,264,185 available.

5310 Small Urban Formula Funds is the next category. These funds are for urban areas with populations between 50,000 and 200,000 people. The Rogue Valley is eligible for this funding. There is \$844,723 available in Small Urban Formula Funds.

The 5310 Rural Formula Funds are new to us this year. These funds also support older adults and people with disabilities, but they are specifically for communities with populations under 50,000.

Paige explained that the requirements are more specific than simply being an area with fewer than 50,000 people. The community must also be outside a metropolitan area. Paige looked into whether the rural areas around the Rogue Valley could qualify, but ODOT determined that they were not eligible.

The funds must be used in an eligible community or township with a population of less than 50,000. Being on the outskirts of a larger city does not qualify. Because RVTD is not eligible for rural funding, RVTD did not apply for these funds.

Paige explained that all of these funds are distributed using a formula established by ODOT. The formula is based on population, including the number of older adults and people with disabilities in the RVTD service area.

RVTD is the lead agency for Jackson County. The STBG and Small Urban Formula Funds are distributed based on the population of the RVTD service area, as well as the number of older adults and people with disabilities in the area.

Paige explained that there are three applications for this funding cycle. Two applications are from RVTD, and one application is from United Way. Both of RVTD's applications are for Valley Lift operations. RVTD is only requesting funding to support its ADA service.

Paige reviewed the applications and explained how the application process works and what information is required. The applications also show the total grant amount requested, the required match amount, and the total project cost.

Paige also presented United Way's application and explained that it falls under the STBG funding category. Paige provided more details about the application. The total project cost is \$135,700, with a match amount of \$13,944 and a total grant request of \$121,826. She also explained that the application includes quality assurance questions and describes the activities and services that United Way plans to provide with the funding.

The final application is for the Small Urban Formula Funds. These funds are limited to programs that qualify under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements. Unlike some of the other funding sources, these funds cannot easily be transferred or used for other purposes.

Contracted services, such as Valley Lift, are eligible to apply for these funds. At this time, RVTD is the only eligible program that can apply. The application shows a total project cost of \$1,444,000, with a match amount of \$288,800 and a total grant request of \$1,155,200.

Robin asked if RVTD is currently facing a budget deficit.

Paige stated that RVTD is facing a major deficit. She explained that any costs that are not covered by grant funding will have to be paid from RVTD's general funds. Paige also noted that there is not much money remaining in the general fund, which makes securing this grant funding very important.

George asked if the levy passing in May would help cover the remaining balance for Valley Lift services.

Paige explained that if the levy passes in May, RVTD expects to be able to maintain Valley Lift service for five years, Monday through Friday. It would also provide additional funding that could likely support Saturday service.

However, the levy would not cover the remaining funding needed for Valley Lift operations. Any remaining costs would still need to come from RVTD's general fund.

Paige explained that if the levy does not pass, RVTB will only be able to continue supporting Valley Lift services through 2028.

Dalia, from United Way, thanked everyone for their time. She explained that United Way's project is focused on removing transportation barriers for people with both visible and invisible disabilities, as well as older adults.

United Way provides travel training in both English and Spanish to help community members better understand and use available transportation services. They also create an annual transportation guide in both English and Spanish.

In addition, United Way has a wheelchair charging program and a bus pass program. Anyone who comes to their office needing a bus pass can receive one. United Way also conducts transportation surveys to better understand the current transportation barriers facing community members.

Dalia stated that, out of respect for Valley Lift and its need for additional funding, United Way is only requesting half of the amount they originally planned to request. For the first time in seven years, United Way is requesting \$60,913 instead of asking for the full amount.

Tim then gave a presentation on Valley Lift services. He explained that new software was introduced in March 2026 to provide new tools and improve efficiency within the Valley Lift program. The new software has already helped reduce program costs and improve rider experience. It has also reduced the number of vans needed on the road and the number of drivers needed to provide service.

5310 Award Recommendation:

The AWG Committee made the following funding recommendations to the Board of Directors:

- \$1,203,272 to RVTB from the 5310 STBG Funds.
- \$844,723 to RVTB from the 5310 Small Urban Funds.
- \$60,913 to United Way from the 5310 STBG Funds.

United Way requested \$60,913 from the 5310 STBG Funds. The committee approved the request, leaving \$1,203,272 available for Valley Lift.

The 5310 Rural Funds were not awarded because no applications were submitted for those funds.

Stanley made a motion to recommend these funding awards to the Board of Directors. Robin seconded the motion. All committee members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Next Meeting on:

Future meeting dates will be sent to committee members by email.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

Any additional agenda items must be submitted to Maria by email.

Comments, Questions, Or Concerns:

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 5:06pm

Maria Carrillo

Maria Carrillo

Recording Secretary