

Coalition for Public Transportation - Joint Leadership Meeting

Meeting Date: Friday, October, 27, 2006

Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Location: St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center – Cheyenne/Shoshone Rooms

Meeting Notes:

Co-chairs Chuck Winder welcomed those in attendance.

Outreach Report

Kelli Fairless talked about the outreach efforts both local and statewide that have occurred since the Coalition's May meeting. She said there was some confusion in several regions of the state about whether this was a Treasure Valley plan. She explained to these groups that an endorsement means that the organization or governing body is accepting the Coalition's recommendations.

Co-Chair Dan Stevens stressed that key messages during outreach efforts have to be that an RPTA has to be formed and there has to be an approved transit plan.

Winder said there are a lot of important names on the list of supporters, but additional major names are needed. He said he thinks the Idaho Transportation Department Board is preparing a resolution in support of the Coalition's recommendations.

Coalition members said the following names needed to be added to the list of supporters: Downtown Boise Association, U.S. Bank, West Valley Medical Center, Stoel Rives and the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce.

Financial Analysis Results

Kelli Fairless discussed an updated financial analysis report that provides details on the revenue a half-penny sales tax increase would produce in Ada and Canyon counties. The sales tax would produce \$29 million in calendar year 2009. Other revenue sources, including fares, advertising and federal grants, are expected to produce an additional \$10 million. Kelli explained that the fare revenues were expected to make up 18 percent of the system's operating costs.

Kelli said that in the first six years, the half-penny sales tax would produce enough revenue to create a more robust bus system and provide the seed money for such things as rail corridor preservation or other high capacity transit services.

Review Plan Update

Kelli told the Coalition that the two plans contained in the six-year Regional Operations and Capitol Improvement Plan were combined into one plan and adopted by the Valley Regional Transit Board as a regional plan. The plan's new name is "Treasure Valley In Transit – Moving Transit into the Future."

Coalition members asked about the two-thirds majority vote necessary for VRT to issue bonds. Brian Ballard said both the vote on the proposed sales tax and the debt authorization (revenue bonds) would likely be on the same ballot and that the original debt service would be for rolling stock, not rail corridor preservation. Several Coalition members agreed with Ballard. Kelli said the text of the proposed legislation would be amended to clarify that point.

Kelli did a PowerPoint presentation about the Treasure Valley In Transit plan.

Roy Eiguren discussed the proposed legislation. He said the legislation included numerous "sideboards" or limitations, such as an sunset clause for how long the tax can be collected, a limit on how much of a sales tax increase can be implemented, and the

requirement that a regional public transportation authority have an approved plan in place. He explained the sideboards will increase the chances the proposed legislation will be approved by legislators.

Review and Approve Final Report

Kelli talked about the Coalition's draft final report. She was asked whether the report was the only material that would be presented to legislators. She said a PowerPoint presentation was being developed that will provide information about other transit systems in the state.

Five legislators volunteered to review the materials that will be presented to state legislators and offer suggestions: State Sen. John McGee, and state Reps. Jana Kemp, Carlos Bilboa, Nicole LeFavour and Stan Bastian.

Rep. Bastian said the list of supporters has to include businesses, organizations and other entities from outside the Treasure Valley.

Rep. Nicole LeFavour said one-on-one meetings with state legislators to discuss the proposed legislation are essential, especially with House Revenue & Taxation Committee members.

During discussion on the Coalition's final report, numerous recommendations were made, including:

- To the conclusion statement by the Coalition that public transportation "has been studied to death" adding the words "and it's time for action!"
- Develop a sense of urgency in the conclusion section of the report.
- Putting several key sections of the executive summary in bold face.
- The executive summary should emphasize the fact that the proposed legislation offers citizens a choice of whether they support paying for an expanded transit system.
- The report should stress that this is an opportunity for citizens statewide.

Coalition members agreed to send any changes they want made to the final report to resource staff by Nov. 17.

Wrap-up

Mayor Dave Bieter made a motion to accept the final report and recommendations.

Seconded by Mayor Tom Dale. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Coalition members in attendance

Co-chair Chuck Winder, The Winder Co.

Co-chair Mayor Garret Nancolas, City of Caldwell

Co-Chair Dan Stevens, Home Federal Bank

Brian Ballard, Holly Troxell Ennis & Hawley

Tom Bassler (for Ray Flachart) Idaho Blue Cross

Jean Basom, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center

Mayor John Bechtel, city of Wilder

Commissioner Dave Bivens, Ada County Highway District

Ross Borden, Boise State University

Jim Brooks, City of Eagle

Ryan Conley, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Tom Dale, City of Nampa

Mayor Tammy de Weerd, City of Meridian
Commissioner David Ferdinand, Canyon County
Ralph Hallquist, Meadow Gold
Chuck Hedemark, Capitol City Development Corporation
Dale Higer, Stoel Rives
Rob Miller, Hewlett-Packard
M.C. Niland, WITCO
Kâren Sander, Downtown Boise Association
Eric Shannon, Idaho Transportation Department
Commissioner Rick Yzaguirre, Ada County

State Rep. Stan Bastian, District 14
State Rep. Carlos Bilboa, District 11
State Rep. Max Black, District 15
State Rep. Darrell Bolz, District 10
State Sen. Kate Kelly, District 18
State Rep. Jana Kemp, District 16
State Rep. Nicole LeFavour, District 19
State Sen. John McGee, District 10
State Sen. Curt McKenzie, District 12
State Rep. Mark Snodgrass, District 20

Resource Group members in attendance

Mark Carnopis, Valley Regional Transit
Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit
Steve Purvis, City of Boise
Matt Stoll, COMPASS

Others in attendance

Ken Burgess, COMPASS
Miguel Gaddi, HDR
Jim Risch, state employee