

Malheur County
Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF)

May 13th, 2026

Location: MCOA&CS Conference Room & Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Lorinda Dubois, Malheur County
Administrative Officer – Chairperson
Brittany White, MCOACS
Rachel Hernandez, MCOACS
Jane Padgett, DHS

Not Present:

Judge Dan Joyce, Malheur County Judge
Michelle Villreal, EOCIL
Aravela Sanchez, WorkSource
Sue Robinett, MCCDC

Guest:

Sandy Shelton, MCOACS
Grace Herrera, Lifeways

Lorinda called the meeting to order. After roll call, a quorum was established with five (5) members present. Sandy Shelton and new member applicant, Grace Herrera participated as a guests and did not count toward quorum.

Next, Lorinda presented the agenda for the meeting. The agenda was reviewed, Brittany made a motion to approve the agenda with the correction to the date on item eight, next meeting scheduled for August 12, 2025 to be corrected to August 12, 2026. Rachel seconded the motion with the correction and none were opposed.

Moving on to Old Business, review of the April 20th, 2026 Meeting Minutes. After review, there were no recommended changes, Rachel made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented with Brittany as a second. All were in favor with none opposed, motion granted.

Lorinda directed the group to the next agenda item of New Business, New Committee Member Application – Grace Herrera with Lifeways. After a brief discussion and introduction, Brittany made a motion for recommendation to Malheur County Court for approval of new membership application for Grace Herrera, Rachel seconded this motion and there were no none opposed. Application will be taken to the County.

Next agenda item, STIF Financial Overview of the 2025-2027 STIF Grant Project List and Budget presented by Brittany. Brittany shared with the committee a STIF budget and expenses sheet as a visual that tracks the funds of the STIF Projects. There was a brief was a brief discussion concerning the requested amendment that was submitted, this amendment was to include the carry over funds that were overlooked in the original grant application. Brittany shared that the amendments went to PTAC for review and all applications were approved to move to the OTC for final review and approval. Brittany reiterated that the funds cannot be spent unless it is included in the grant application and that it is important to start spending out the funds since there may be new rules coming down specifically on the reserves and capital funding projects.

Following that discussion, Brittany presented quick updates on each of the STIF Projects and Program Updates.

- Fixed Route Redesign
 - Still working on the final design, plans to implement the new route system in phases to better assist not only attaining staffing for this project, but to assist the community in learning the new system and not overwhelming the people involved.

- Commuter Route Redesign
 - Final design is almost complete, biggest barrier is staffing and completing the redesign on the fixed route.
- Contractor Staffing Expansion and Preservation
 - This project has maintained; we have not lost any staff who are funded under this project that wasn't for personal reasons.
- Low-Income Fare Program
 - Brittany explained that she is still working to establish a full working system or process for this project, however it is getting closer to being an active program. She has met with agencies in the area to connect about the project once it is ready as well establish MOU's with EOCIL and Lifeways to go over the proper process of the voucher program. The goal is to fill the gaps for those who may not meet the criteria of senior or disable as well as opening up the program to other agencies and their clients.
- Rideshare/Vanpool Program
 - Project did not meet expectations; Commute Options was not able to gain interest from the local large employers in the area. Brittany did share that she has recently been in contact with Tom Vialpando who is working closely with those in charge of the mines in Vale, there may be some interest in a ride share program for that. There was also Commute with Enterprise that is working with ODOT to establish a state vanpool program, Brittany asked to be included in those discussions as more information develops. If there is no movement on any of these by the end of the biennium, Brittany would recommend reviewing this project and the funds.
- Incentives for Existing Transit Staff
 - While there has been a decline in staffing, it hasn't been caused by anything the agency has done, this project has done what it was intended to do. Has allowed the agency to be able to provide wage increases and things like that.
- Expansion/Preservation for Malheur County Veteran Transportation Program
 - Great program that many veterans are able use, is a great project that was included. So far the project has spent \$58,000 on this program from July through mid-September and then covered February through March. Brittany explained that this project was to help support the Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) once those funds were spent. There was also an award of \$20,000 from ODOT for the Rural Veteran Health Care Transportation Grant. Brittany also mentioned that in the amendment, that also is asking for an additional \$100,000. This funding is for a biennium, but it goes to show how needed this program is to the community. There was discussion on ways to operate this program more efficiently if there is anyway in order to stretch funding for an entire grant cycle.
- Free Fares for Students
 - May need to revisit this project in the future, while it is being utilized, it's not gaining traction that quickly. This could be due to multiple reasons that may need to be explored to further the program's success.
- Senior & Disabled Transportation Services
 - Going as expected, spending out funds effectively. The voucher programs are going well, there was additional funding available to increase the limit to both EOCIL and Lifeways per quarter. There was a brief discussion on how the voucher program currently operates and what the changes may be in the future as more projects are in place.
- Capital Improvement Projects
 - Brittany briefly went over these projects which are intended to help improve bus stop amenities, and new transit technologies.
- Operations Reserve
 - Nothing to Update
- Capital Reserve
 - Nothing to Update
- QE Administrative Expenses
 - Nothing to Update

Moving Forward with the Round Table Updates from the Committee:

- Brittany shared with the group the ridership numbers for MCOACS, showing the revenue service hours, miles and passenger counts for the Commuter Route, Fixed Route and then Demand Response Services.

- Lorinda reported that the County has submitted the 5310 and 5311 grant applications. There was a brief discussion concerning the second grant of that was not submitted for Malheur County – waiting on direction from Angie with ODOT.
- Jane did not have an update
- Rachel shared with the group that MCOACS home delivered meals program is looking for more volunteer delivery drivers for that program.

With no other updates or discussions, Lorinda moved to adjourn the meeting, Brittany second the motion and all were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned.