

Minutes of Meeting
Public Transportation Update
February 23, 2021
1:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze, RMO Senior Program Manager Kimberli Riley, Transit Program Manager Chad Ingle and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Tim Hibbard from Passio Technologies and Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Madison Hardy. Commissioner Brooks, Ms. Bieze and Mr. Hibbard were present via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion):**

Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI)

Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze introduced Tim Hibbard, Vice President of Development and Innovation at Passio Technologies. She said Passio was the County's "intelligent transportation system" provider as well as their technology partner in the Integrated Mobility Innovation (IMI) project.

She also introduced Chad Ingle, the Transit Program Manager for Kootenai County Public Transportation and described his responsibilities.

Mr. Hibbard reviewed the history of the IMI project, which began in 2019. He explained the ways this service simplified transportation planning for clients, how clients accessed the system and how transportation providers were included in the program.

Mr. Hibbard reported that they were building a portal to track transportation providers' data and hoped to have it completed by fall 2021. After that, he said they would start work on a system that would accept payments from riders and distribute the funds to the appropriate providers.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan asked what other communities in the United States were providing similar services.

Mr. Hibbard said the general idea was common, but their plan was unique in that it combined both private and public transportation providers. He described the features of the online application and explained the focus they placed on creating relationships with the transportation providers.

Chairman Fillios asked whether the confidential information included in users' profiles would be secure.

Mr. Hibbard replied that the individual customers would be in control of their profiles; the application would just direct them to different transportation sources and enable disbursement of their payments. He assured the Commissioners that Passio staff were well versed in the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) provisions and were able to safeguard users' personal information.

Mr. Hibbard exited the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Service Planning Study

This was listed as item five on the agenda.

Mr. Ingle stated that their strategic service plan included three fixed route Paratransit Services positioned within three quarters of a mile of the standard fixed route service, but with the implementation of the Regional Mobility Platform, people would have more options available. He said it would allow them to build an urban/rural mobility framework that should meet future transportation needs and would include assessments of individual motorized mobility, public transport, walking, cycling, riding and bike sharing.

Bus Shelter Improvements

Mr. Ingle reported that they planned two bus stop improvements, one at Panhandle Health and one at the Seltice/Huetter stop. He explained that they would provide a shelter and a pathway behind the shelter to make the stop more accessible and convenient to users. He added that Transit partnered with the different jurisdictions to maintain the bus stops and provided a map illustrating one section of their "Walkable Winter Program." As an example, he described Transit's agreement with Post Falls to make clearing certain walking paths that lead to the bus stops a priority in the winter.

Riverstone Transit Center (RTC) Phase II

Mr. Ingle said that they planned to add a 600 square foot grounds maintenance structure, 65 parking spaces and a generator for the facility in Phase II.

Maintenance Facility/Land

Mr. Ingle said they were seeking long term solutions to their bus storage and maintenance needs and were working with KMPO (Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization) on specific funding ideas. He stated Transit was parking the buses at the Post Falls gravel pit at this time, under an agreement with the Post Falls Highway District, but this was not ideal.

Ms. Bieze said they did not yet know if they would use space at the Airport. She added that there was not a critical need to find a new location immediately, but they did need to have a plan soon.

Commissioner Duncan remarked that the Commissioners had asked Cory Trapp and LCA Architects to develop a proposal regarding the best use of space at the newly named Kootenai County North, which could include space for the Transit Program needs.

D. Public Comment: This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
