



CTSI STTS STIF Meeting

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025

(Held Virtually via Zoom)

Members Present: Maggie McAfee, Heidi Lussier, Ian Keene, Jon Duarte (relayed all minutes to remaining comm members)

Agenda:

Opening discussion:

Topics:

STTS Committee

STIF Adoption Council

STIF Application

Final submission of STIF for 2025-27 Biennium and makeup (2021-23, 23-25)

## Meeting summary for CTSI STTS STIF Meeting (02/28/2025)

### Quick recap

The team discussed the need to catch up on lost time due to incomplete applications and the creation of a reserve account for future needs. They also discussed the allocation of funds for various transportation projects, including youth and elder transportation, bus route expansion, and student transit services, and the challenges faced by the county due to staff shortages. The conversation ended with discussions on the bus schedules, the idea of organizing a field trip, and the allocation of federal and state funding for transportation services.

### Next steps

- CTSI to submit the updated STIF plan to ODOT for official approval.
  - CTSI to notify committee members via email once official approval is received and funds are secured.
  - CTSI to look into geocoded tribal member households in Tillamook County to assess transportation needs.
  - Committee to consider adding representatives from 477 and ICW departments to the STIF Advisory Committee.
  - Committee to investigate why Lincoln County Transit stopped service to Judd and CTCO.
  - Jon to follow up with Cynda about Lincoln County Transit routes and stops, particularly in Siletz.
  - Committee to explore options for transportation between Lincoln City and Tillamook for tribal members.
  - Committee to consider organizing a field trip to ride the bus and assess service quality.
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## **Summary**

### **Catching Up on Lost Time and Applications**

The meeting was primarily about the need to catch up on lost time due to the lack of completion and submission of applications for the past bienniums. CTSI mentioned that ODOT had kept funds aside for the last biennium and that we had completed the stiff application for 25 to 27. A reserve account was being created and CTSI planned to share the details with everyone. The meeting also involved discussions about the committee's structure, with new members being added and the need to review the stiff application. The conversation ended with the decision to post the minutes publicly and to review the stiff application.

### **STIF Funds Allocation Discussion**

Maggie, CTSI, Jon, and others discussed the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) and its allocation to Lincoln County Transit. Jon explained that Tillamook County had stopped their service due to driver shortages, and no one had contacted them about filling the gap. CTSI mentioned that the tribe had traditionally used STIF funds as pass-through funds to support the Blue Line and other transit services. The group also discussed the need for a current transportation plan, with Jon mentioning that Pam was working on one before she left. CTSI expressed a desire for greater accountability in the future, considering whether the tribe should use some of the funds for projects that benefit tribal elders and youth.

### **Stif Plan and Reserve Fund Discussion**

The meeting revolved around the STIF Plan, a document that outlines the allocation of funds for transit and travel. The plan was adopted by the tribal council and submitted to the ODOT coordinators for review. The team discussed the criteria for approval and the need to change the adoption date to a post date. They also discussed the creation of a reserve fund to manage leftover funds and maintain service levels. The reserve fund, estimated to be around half a million dollars, will be used to pay out to Lincoln County Transit for the time that funds were held.

### **Funding Allocation and Project Adjustments**

CTSI discussed the allocation of funds for various projects, including youth and elder transportation, bus route expansion, and student transit services. They noted that a certain percentage of funds must be allocated to these projects and that these allocations can be adjusted post-application approval. CTSI also mentioned the need to update the application form and the allocation of funds for the reserve account. The team considered increasing funding for projects 6 and 8, but decided against procuring low emission buses due to the lack of suitable areas. Maggie suggested considering project 5 for funding.

### **Addressing Transportation Issues and Goals**

The meeting discussed transportation issues in the community, particularly the lack of bus services to certain areas. It was noted that the bus no longer stops at Judd and Chetco, and only goes to Judd and Gwee-Shut. The team agreed to discuss this with Cynda to ensure the routes are reinstated and the tribe's previous payment amounts are maintained. They also discussed the implementation of programs to reduce fares for public transportation in communities with high percentages of non-users, with a proposal to allocate 10% of funds towards this. The team also discussed transportation goals, with the aim to meet all community needs.

### **Transportation Funding and Reserve Account**

The meeting discussed the allocation of funds for transportation needs and the creation of a reserve account. The reserve account, which is estimated to be around \$1,000, is intended to support future needs and is not tied to any specific criteria or functions. The funds for this account are expected to increase by 120% of the actual need to account for potential cost increases. The meeting also touched on the allocation of funds to Lincoln County Transit, with the understanding that these funds would be used to pay for the transit services. The total funding for the biennium was estimated to be almost a million dollars.

### **Transportation Funding and Route Expansion**

In the meeting, the team discussed the allocation of federal and state funding for transportation services. They confirmed that the funding was not affected by the freeze and that it was already attributed in the previous funding cycle. The team also discussed the potential for expanding bus routes and the challenges faced by the county due to staff shortages. They considered the possibility of providing transportation services to tribal members living in or working in nearby areas. The team also discussed the possibility of adding representatives from 477 and Icw to the committee to better serve their clients.

### **Bus Schedules and Field Trip Plans**

In the meeting, Maggie shared the bus schedules for East and North with the team, which included stops and routes. The team discussed their experiences with the bus system, with CTSI sharing a past incident of being left behind by a bus. The idea of organizing a field trip was proposed, with CTSI suggesting they all ride the bus together for a firsthand experience. Maggie agreed to submit the necessary information and inform the team via email once they receive official approval and confirmation of the allocated funds. Jon expressed gratitude towards Maggie and Heidi for their responsiveness to emails. The team ended the conversation wishing each other a good weekend.