

Coos County Area Transportation District (CCATD)
Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

Coos County Area Transit
800 N Bayshore, Coos Bay, OR 97420
February 9, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting called to order at 9:04AM by Director Harper Thompson.
2. **ROLL CALL/CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
 - a. **BOD Present:** Director Veysey, Director Dovenspike, Director Nelson, Director Thompson, Director Claassen, Director Taylor, Director Johnson
 - b. **BOD Absent:** None
 - c. **AC Present:** Richard Rogers, Lauren Morris, Karen Dubisar, Michael Babcock
 - d. **AC Absent:** Cynthia Ramirez, Michelle McIntyre
 - e. **Staff and Others Present:** BC Jeremy Oliver, BC Rae Lea Cousins, Dean Martin, Jennifer Boardman, Melissa Metz and Jane Stebbins.
3. **CHANGES TO AGENDA** – Two Additions - Items 7a. and 7b.
4. **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS (Limited to three minutes/person)**

None
5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of [BOD Minutes January 12, 2026](#)

Accept the [Financial Report](#) and [Balance Sheet](#) for December 2025

Accept [Ridership Report](#) December 2025

BOD Motion: Director Nelson moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Veysey seconded. All in favor were Directors Nelson, Veysey, Thompson, Taylor, Johnson, Claassen and Dovenspike. No one was opposed, and no one abstained. The motion passed unanimously.
6. **OLD BUSINESS - none**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **House Bill 4008**

HB 2017 created the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund, a 0.1% employee payroll tax with funding kept within the county it is earned. Agencies were directed to expand transportation offerings and reduce fares.

 - Since 2017 revenue has not kept the pace of inflation. Operating costs have grown 50% in the last 5 years.

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- 63% of the transit providers surveyed by the Oregon Transit Association in 2025 were in a budget deficit or projecting a deficit.

HB 4088 would bring together diverse stakeholders--including transit providers, business organizations and employers, workers, elected leaders, local governments and transit users - to build consensus on a revenue mechanism for funding transit across the State. Given the opposition to the employee payroll tax during the 2025 session, there is a need to investigate whether there is a different revenue mechanism that could adequately fund transit that has broad consensus, including from the business community. A task force would facilitate that conversation in public meetings with a required report summarizing the findings and recommendations ahead of the 2027 session.

Written testimony will be accepted up to 48 hours after the start of the hearing.

BOD Motion: Director Johnson moved to authorize Melissa Metz to write and submit a letter of support for House bill 4008. Director Nelson seconded. All in favor were Directors Nelson, Veysey, Thompson, Taylor, Johnson, Claassen and Dovenspike. No one was opposed, and no one abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

b. CCAT's STIF Story

Back in 2017, the introduction of HB2017 and STIF was poised to enhance the quality of life for our CCAT staff with the hope of offering comprehensive health insurance, while also prioritizing expanded transit services and reduced fares. When it came to implementation that first year employees were either enrolled in Medicare or on the Oregon Health Plan, so we secured life insurance for staff, improved and expanded transit service offerings and called it a win.

The District had a wakeup call in the fall of 2024 when our staff started a discussion for representation with ATU and in February 2025 staff voted against ATU representation. In June of 2025 the District did establish an employee association and Richard Rogers on our Advisory Committee represents the employee association.

Today our employees make enough they are not on the Oregon Health Plan and the health stipend approach needs to be reviewed by management and the employee association.

As a Board, this highlights the need for us to reassess our approach. It is crucial that we not build our transit system at the expense of our employees,

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who are our most valuable asset. I hope with the support of everyone present today we can commit to fostering a more equitable balance between service provision and the wellbeing of our staff.

Core Services Discussion with Advisory Committee

Background

The CCATD Advisory Committee and the CCATD Board of Directors acting as the Qualified Entity reviewed and prioritized projects on a periodic basis. This information is used in the development and monitoring of the STIF Plan and the context of the budget.

The General Manger sent out a link to the Board of Directors, Advisory Committee, and Budget Committee to do a MaxDiff Analysis of our 7 transit services which forced respondents to make trade-offs unlike a simple ranking.

The Board of Directors and Advisory Committee discussed the difficulty of making choices between services, the need for local residents to have transportation, as well as fundraising ideas and the possibility of reaching out to other organizations in the community.

REMINDER: Budget Committee Meeting Mar 9 9:30am (April 13, if needed)

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

a. Budget Primer - Two Funds in 2026-2027

For the 2026-2027 budget, the district will be implementing a dual-fund structure, introducing a dedicated facility (capital) fund for the first time alongside our general fund, to enhance financial transparency and efficiency in resource allocation. You will note that our December budget to actual was recast so that we can all have clearer insights to our operational expenses and expenses related to consultant work on our Transit Hub project.

b. Route Inter-City Schedule Improvements

- Coos Bay to Myrtle Point Connector added Walmart & Fred Meyers stops
- Adjusted departure time from Florence for improved connectivity to Link Lane.

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c. February Safety Training Focus – Lift Usage

- *Lock the doors in place
- *Use of the safety belt
- *Instruction to the passenger to hold both yellow handles

d. Results of Transit Day, January 28, 2026

Passengers rode free and were given a promotional button. On the fourth Tuesday thereafter, customers who wear their buttons get to ride for free in 2026.

Wednesday January 28, Transit Day, we provisioned 251 trips

Compared to 182 trips the week before on January 21

Compared to 164 trips the week after on February 4

e. Update RFP for Construction Manager / General Contractor

Required site visit was January 8th and RFP closed January 28. We received five proposals. Melissa Dovenspike and Mike Claassen were identified at a previous Board Meeting to serve on the interview panel.

Mike Claassen has offered to conduct reference checks and three firms are being contacted later this week for interviews.

f. Update Transit Hub Project

The LaClair/Newmark property has been set for a delayed close on February 28 due to recent revelations regarding illegal stormwater dumping by neighboring properties. In response to this issue, the property owner has committed to capping the offending pipes to prevent any further runoff and mitigate the impact on the surrounding area. This proactive measure aims to ensure compliance with environmental regulations before the close is finalized.

g. Required Training: Public Meetings Law (2.5hrs)

Under ORS 192.700, every member of a governing body with total expenditures for a fiscal year of \$1 million or more shall attend or view training on Public Meeting Law at least once during the member's term of office. Webinars calendar is available [here](#).

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Missing Certificates of Completion from Mike Claassen and Phil Taylor

g. Funding Opportunities Timeline

Awarded Community Renewable Energy Planning Grant

Submitted Letter of Interest to Roundhouse Foundation

Submitted a Grant Application for Rural Veteran Health Transportation

Competitive Grant Program Call for Projects Opens February 2026

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON AGENDA ITEMS (LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES/PERSON)

None

10.NEXT MEETING – CCATD Board of Directors March 9, 2026 9AM

11.ADJOURN – Meeting Adjourned at 10:01AM by Director Harper Thompson.