



CORTPO Technical Board
November 7, 2024, 11:15 a.m.
COEDD, 400 N. Bell St, Shawnee

Meeting Minutes

Jim Greff	P	Cory Swearingen	A	Kim Holmes	A
Amy Hill	P	Melissa Fesler	P	Cynthia Gedra	A
Randy Heisler	P	Wendy Rutter	P	Jackson Hurst	A
Chris Peters	A	Crystal Stevens	E		
Tina Lowery	P	Sheri Hutchins	A		

1. Call to Order @ 11:16
2. **Roll Call** - Jim Greff – Present, Amy Hill – Present, Randy Heisler – log in issues (listened to recording after the meeting), Chris Peters – Absent, Tina Lowery – log in issues(listened to after the meeting) Cory Swearingen – Present, Melissa Fesler – Present, Wendy Rutter - Present, Crystal Stevens – Excused, Sheri Hutchins – Excused, Kim Holmes – Absent, Cynthia Gedra – Absent, Jackson Hurst – Absent
3. **Introduction of Guests** Travis Rigdon – from ODOT is with us, John Campbell – Moms Ride
4. **Mobility Manager update** – Kristen do you want to give your report now? Ya, I was just going to go over the, this is the first Mobility Week. We had a lot of great participation with our mobility partners offering free fairs on election day. The Heartland Flyer had a \$1 out and \$1 back promotion for the train ride. It was a lot more participation than we anticipated, we thought it would be quiet soft launch this year to build awareness to the Mobility Management Program. So, there was a lot more momentum behind that was exciting. Also, continuing to build partnerships that address the whole person and make sure those mobility needs are being met on the community level and working together to make that happen. That is what we have been up to but with a heavy focus on mobility week. This goes through the rest of this week, and you still have time to submit a picture through our app to be the face of mobility next year.
Clorisa – the Heartland Flyer, when was that a \$1, was that yesterday and today? Kristen – It was the 5th through the 7th, Tuesday through today. We didn’t advertise heavily this year because we didn’t want to overwhelm dispatch. Next year we will be more prepared to help dispatch with all the requests. Clorisa – Does anyone have any questions or comments for



Kristen, **Melissa Fesler** – So we can upload pictures today? Kristen – Yes you can, I think you can submit them up to the 10th or 11th. Melissa Fesler – I think you sent the link, so I'll look through my email. **Kristen** – Sounds great. **Clorisa** – it's also on the Facebook page, the scan to their page to submit it. **Kristen** – We are presenting to the Oklahoma Transition Council for people with disabilities. We will be discussing the transitional age when they are going from their parent's home to adulthood and how we can assist with those needs as it pertains to transportation. **Clorisa** – Kristen do you want to stay for the rest of the meeting, or do you need to go? **Kristen** – I really should go; I'll see everyone later.

5. **Approve the 2025 Tech Board Meeting Schedule** - We don't have quorum so we can't approve the schedule but we can discuss if there are any conferences or reasons that we need to change dates. As always, we schedule our special meeting for August in July. **Jim Greff** – Clorisa, I see you have the January meeting on the 6th, that is on a Monday. **Clorisa** – I did that since our meeting would land on January 2nd and I figured everyone was going to be super busy that week. I was going to ask everyone if they wanted to stay on the 2nd or move it to the 6th. **Wendie Rutter** – I would rather do it the 6th since the 2nd is going to be crazy for us too. **Clorisa** – Or we can do it anytime before the 8th. If you want to do it on the 7th or the 3rd, it's up to you guys. **Jim Greff** – the 6th should be fine, I just noticed it wasn't in line with the rest of the dates. **Clorisa** – So, so far, they all look good? **Jim Greff** – ya.
6. Discuss updating the new member orientation guide **Clorisa** – I sent out the new member orientation guide with the agenda. It was created by us; I think 5 years ago. It is out of date and needs to be updated. I was hoping everyone could go though, find the changes, and submit them to me. Of course, the Policy will be reviewed also then we can get back together and discuss what is being done. **Jim Greff** – I did notice on the beginning there is a lot of duplication and can be combined into one. The ones that are duplicated, don't worry about. Just delete them and keep it all in just one. **Melissa Fesler** – I will try to look over it tonight. **Clorisa** – You have time, I would like to approve it in the January meeting because I know November and December are super busy for everybody. If you see any changes, just email them to me and I will mark them down as suggested changes. **Amy Hill** – Is there a section on the Mobility Management **Clorisa** – No, we need to add that. We didn't have that program 5 years ago.



Kristen will be involved in setting up the Mobility chapter. **Wendie Rutter** – Where is it? **Clorisa**, it is on coedd.net and was an attachment to the email. Did it not go through? **Amy Hill** – It's on there. **Wendie Rutter** – I look over it. **Clorisa** – if you need me to send it over again or if you want to run by, I can give you a printed copy. Just let me know.

7. Update on the communities that received TAP grants – We had 3 applications from our region and only one was funded. Stillwater received theirs as a continuation of their Rails to Trails project that will continue their trail to connect with the Katie Trail (I think that is the name of it). Next time I will be getting it out to everyone and seeing if we can do a bigger project that combines areas. There is a grant I'm looking at that covers bigger projects, so I'm going to get it out and start having meetings to find projects that can be applied. **Jim Greff** – We didn't apply this year since we are still waiting on the engineer to get the design done and to ODOT. They have a preliminary, but they haven't sent it out to ODOT. It's kind of dragging.
8. Discussion/feedback from the Technical Board on what they think of the meetings and what is wanted this next year. **Clorisa** – I did have a few questions that we can maybe have feedback on. 1. If a study in your area could be done, what kind of studies do you suggest? What can help your communities? Other COG's host communication sessions over zoom and in person. Do you think these kinds of events would benefit? These sessions allow the public to voice concerns and suggestions to better their lives. 3. I was thinking about a newsletter based on a County-by-County basis. Do you think it should be monthly or quarterly? 4. Am I communicating enough? If not, what do you want? 5. If COEDD was to host an event, what kind do you think will benefit our area? Training, inputs, community connections (ride shares, walking/cycling audits, etc.) **Jim Greff** – I'm sure there will be input on those questions. If you could email them out and give us a chance to go over them, I'm sure you will get answers. **Clorisa** – ok that would be great to get written suggestions. SWORTPO does a podcast, I don't think I'm that good yet to host a podcast. Hers is extensive with a lot of quality information. **Amy Hill** – how about a newsletter that has a calendar of events that could be shared? **Clorisa** – yes, like a full calendar that has state event, county events, and regional? **Amy Hill** – and have somewhere to host it, like on the COEDD website. **Clorisa** – that is a good idea. Are you wanting just transit or other events too? **Amy Hill** – I think a lot of our social events go together. I think it would be beneficial to have a variety of social events. And of course,



include the transportation things, like when we provided transportation for the voting. Clorisa I can get with our Aging department and see if I could add that to it. Amy Hill – I think that would be helpful. Clorisa, I think today they have a huge aging event in OKC. Melissa Fesler – talking about Podcast, I think inviting our legislatures to hear what we are doing and our mobility issues. Clorisa – I like that idea. Melissa Fesler – it can be county commissioners; it can be anybody. Like Chandler we have the Sheriff come and speak about mobility issues after you lose your license, they then must complete all these programs, then they reoffend, then you send out a bench warrant it is a continued cycle. That is something people don't think about. That is something people don't realize, they end up with 5 or more additional charges, that if we could have offered transportation it could have prevented some of those issues. Clorisa – yes, and we have several new sheriffs that will be starting January. We could have those sheriffs on and discuss the needs of their regions. We can have our Nations and Tribes have their own session. Amy Hill – if you're not comfortable with doing a podcase, I suggest doing small interview videos. Kind of a segway to something bigger when you're comfortable. Melissa Fesler – you know Amy when we did Faces of Transit, I used that a lot to show the need and during grant cycles we use that to show the need in our region. When you said that I was thinking of Faces of Transit and just having a 3-minute video. Amy Hill – if you having seen any of those, I suggest you go to FacesofTransit.org and we see some of those. I have a video; I think Melissa has a video. We just talk in general about the needs of transit in our communities. Clorisa – that sounds great, is that something we can share on our website or Facebook? Melissa Fesler – yes, we have it shared on our Facebook. Amy Hill – yes, you could probably put a link to it, ya. I suggest that you do, that would be helpful. Melissa Fesler, on one of our faces we have a judge that does drug court. That is why we got involved with the meetings and talks about transportation is a way to fund that, so they are not reoffending by missing court. I was working to get grants to the justice system or through drug court, but it didn't pan out. That is what we need. Clorisa – are you guys aware that Kristen did an interview with CTV in Shawnee during the tornado (down in the basement and such). It's going to be posted and as soon as it is I'll put a link on our website and Facebook, I can email it out if you want. It was her and Tina that got together and did the interview. Talking about transit and the needs of the community. Tina was able to give a good insight into what is needed in her area based off her clients. I would like to do that more. I will investigate the Faces of



Transit. **Melissa Fesler**, oh, you will love them and some of them will make you cry. **Clorisa** – oh I don't need that this week. SWORTPO did a good video, they used walk ins of people that benefit from transit, showing their needs, and what they suggest can help. Kristen has many stories, here was one of a man that couldn't get to his dialysis, he ended up having both his legs amputated since his health got so bad. I'm pretty sure that it is in her video with CTV. **Amy Hill** – I'm going to have to jump off here, I have another meeting starting. **Melissa Fesler** – when you're talking about funding for those types are things, are there grants to help with those kinds of things? OTA put a lot of money into those videos. If we can investigate grants to help pay because those kinds of things can get quite expensive. Some of the videos were quite long and they edited them down. **Clorisa** – there actually is or we can get with OBU and see if their students want to help with a project. **Melissa Fesler** – we did it in our vehicles, they came to us, used the library, just a lot of locations.

9. Old Business - nothing

10. New Business – Just this week I have posted I think 12 new grants on our Facebook page. I have 3 more on my desk that I'm going through. The ones on my desk are smaller ones and may be more obtainable by you, the ones I have posted are larger grants that would benefit regional projects. I've been working with Pottawatomie County Commissioner on making safe routes for buses and additional safety measures for walkers, like signage, lights, ramps, updated sidewalks, etc. in the Pleasant Grove district. **Wendie Rutter** – I'm involved with that issue. If you need any more input on that subject, I would be able to help. As you know I'm always transporting kids from those schools. There is a red hotspot at the trailer park off Harrison by Macarther. Bus drivers have reported that they are always in danger of being hit going in and coming out. The bus stop is right there at the entrance by the highway and that is dangerous. **Melissa Fesler**, we need that in Logan County too. **Clorisa** – Logan is in our mobility area; we can look at that. **Melissa Fesler** – we have many schools that have cut their bus routes to outside a mile and a half from the school. We have many parents that have put us on their demand route just to get their kids to school and they are paying for that. We are full and have no room and have a waiting list. Even though there is a group of kids they must cross a highway or a couple highways just to get to school. **Wendie Rutter** – I would love to be up that area but then what would my kids here do. I'm taking them to the boys and girls club, sports, etc. Like Clorisa said, Pleasant



Grove doesn't even have buses so how are these kids supposed to get to school. **Melissa Fesler** – I don't think they look at the types of roads these kids are walking on. There are apartment complexes, there's low housing complexes and they are paying us to get their kids to school and they struggle. I wasn't part of the conversation with our school, I should have been, but there must be a better way to get our kids to school. **Clorisa** – Melissa I will get with Logan County on what can be done in that area, what can be helped. Can you send me the schools that you know of so I can pull up their bus routes and walking routes? **Melissa Fesler** – I went to their websites, but their maps are down but I'm sure you would be able to get a copy. I will email you the areas where kids are having issues with getting to school from what our phone calls are. **Clorisa** – If they are on highways, ODOT is good at helping in those situations. I will see which engineer is in those areas and get with them after I have everything together. Well, that was a lot to investigate, and I really appreciate all the feedback.

11. Adjourn @ 11:45 1st Wendie Rutter, 2nd Melissa Fesler.