

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY: Catie Faryl

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THE ISSUE: Getting people without cars around town and getting people with cars to use them less

SOLUTIONS:

- 1) Work with Ashland Car Share
- 2) See who can bring back the "Green Bike" program or something similar and help them find local sponsors or funding (could be incubated at Creative Re-Use Depot with rebuilt bikes)
- 3) Review information submitted to your Committee regarding the "Off Broadway Trolley" ideas
- 4) Visit the Ashland Historic Railroad Museum at 258 A Street and contact their Board Member Bill Ainsworth about the restored Steam Train and his group of retired engineers' desire to create a commuter passenger train that will initially run between Ashland and Medford. Consider the advantages of tourists and locals being able to use this system, and how it will help speed the resolution of freight trains not wanting to share the tracks, regionally and beyond, with passenger rail. Ask the Transportation Commission and staff to rethink how Ashland and the Rogue Valley will interface with the 50 year plan for high speed rail. Due to the topography between Eugene and Redding, there is no plan and advocates who previously asked for high speed rail were unsuccessful in part because high speed through Siskiyou is problematic. Advocating for passenger rail in slow speed "dinner" trains would be great goal for local tourism organizations, like the Chamber of Commerce and Oregon Welcome Center. People from large cities like L.A., San Francisco, Portland and Seattle could then take the high speed train to Redding or Eugene and transfer to a leisurely, scenic passenger train to Ashland and the Rogue Valley. Signatures of people who want slow speed passenger trains to our area are available.
- 5) Encourage the County or one of many non profit and business networks to sponsor a weekend workshop on Transportation. People do not know the long term plans for our region, nor how to advocate for improved public transportation or how to move forward with projects that cut our dependency on fossil fuels and get cars off the road
- 6) Ask City Staff to explore the availability of State Gas Tax revenues for Paratransit. In California, most senior centers administer taxi scrip and van voucher programs that give the disabled, seniors and mentally ill free or affordable coupons or other financial support for transportation. This could help some of the homeless get to necessary services, doctor's appointments, mentoring and counseling, and possible job interviews.

FUNDING: In every case it is not a matter of funding so much as a matter of focus and consensus. The City Transportation Commission and staff could coordinate with and make use of the citizens, other bureaucratic entities, transportation carriers who are already working these

ideas. Also since we are so heavily encumbered with ODOT's rules, regulations and funding and limited in our ability to fund alternative projects, create a Citizens Lobby to go to Salem and Washington to speak and prevent future "stimulus" or bailouts going towards new freeway interchanges when most people want to see public transportation improved and the need to buy gas decreased.