

From: [Ede, Rachel](#)
To: [Manis, Dina](#); [Williams, Stephanie](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re Agenda item for 10/12 about combining transit agencies in Sonoma County
Date: Friday, October 8, 2021 1:01:06 PM
Attachments: [Recruitment Letter.pdf](#)

Hi Stephanie and Dina,

I received the following public comment for our 10/12 Study Session on the Future of Transit. Would you be able to include it with any other comment received for that item?

Thanks!

Rachel

From: Theresa Cunningham <Theresa.Cunningham@circuitridercs.org>
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Ede, Rachel <rede@srcity.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re Agenda item for 10/12 about combining transit agencies in Sonoma County

Hello Rachel,

I would like to make comments on this Agenda item. I am the COO of Circuit Rider Community Services. We, like many non-profits, run a volunteer driver program that provides free rides to seniors in the north Santa Rosa and the Windsor areas. Our program is called Windsor Wheels.

My first comment is that there is no free public transit for seniors, as there is in Marin County.

Also, unless you live along the 101 corridor, it is difficult to use public transit, particularly for seniors- public transit does not pick up nor get our seniors where they need to go. Many seniors do not qualify nor have the ability to sign up for para transit. While we are actively recruiting volunteer drivers, we are not able to provide the many seniors who are no longer able to drive reliable transportation to medical appointments and shopping.

I have attached a letter explaining our program.

Thank you,
Theresa

Theresa L. Cunningham
Chief Operating Officer
(Pronoun:she/her)

Please use cell phone: (707) 481-2300

Circuit Rider Community Services

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Our Mission: To empower individuals from all backgrounds to improve their own lives, the lives of others, and the environment we share.

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WINDSOR WHEELS – DRIVE A SENIOR!

Hello!

We here at Circuit Rider Community Services are currently running a program called “Windsor Wheels – *Drive a Senior!*” and are looking for **your help** in continuing to support our local community, businesses, and wellbeing of our senior population. Through our volunteer program, we are able to grant our local seniors and otherwise disabled adults renewed stewardship over their own lives by regaining a sense of mobility and independence when it comes to medical appointments, much needed social engagements, and even simple trips to the store.

By utilizing a generous all volunteer group of local drivers, *Drive a Senior!* provides Windsor’s seniors the security and comfort to elegantly age in place while remaining active within the community they know and love. To continue running this wonderful program, however, **we need more drivers!** Our incredible group of volunteer drivers donate their time, energy, personal vehicles, and gas to this incredible cause. The more we have, the more lives we can touch, the less everyone has to take on, and the better off every person in the program is. These people are changing the lives of our ever-aging population by getting them to much needed appointments or simply affording them the quality of life they formerly knew.

We’re reaching out to you today to assist us in recruiting new drivers for this wonderful cause. There is virtually no regular commitment – drivers can take on as many or as few rides as they wish – and there is no minimum to stay engaged. Even just one ride a month significantly alters the course of a senior’s life who can no longer transport themselves. If we can supply a plethora of drivers to the program, we can create an environment, a society, and a culture that celebrates aging and allows every one of us the freedom to be who we want, where we want, when we want to be there.

Please help us help them in any way you can. Not only do we appreciate it, but the untold number of lives each ride changes through the ripples of human connection is limitless; and we seek to touch as many as we can, watching this community and those within it flourish, thrive, and succeed where, before, the barriers were too great to overcome.

Please reach out with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Leo Cacciatore

Windsor Wheels: *Drive a Senior!* Coordinator

