

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING/WORK SESSION

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on October 11, 2007, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the LTD Board Room at 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Gerry Gaydos, President, presiding
 Dean Kortge, Secretary
 Debbie Davis, Treasurer
 Michael Dubick
 Mike Eyster, Vice President
 Greg Evans
 Mark Pangborn, General Manager
 Jo Sullivan, Clerk of the Board
 Kim Young, Minutes Recorder

Absent: (One Vacancy, Subdistrict 4)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Mr. Gaydos called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. and Mr. Pangborn called the roll.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – Mr. Gaydos asked Mr. Dubick and Mr. Evans to comment on the recent American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Conference. Mr. Dubick said that he learned that transit system structures and funding were different across the country, although many of the issues were the same. He believed that LTD was out front of most districts its size in regard to transit technology. He noted the good presentation done by Steve Parrot. He said many issues were coming up and it was important to play an active role in Washington, D.C. Mr. Evans concurred with Mr. Dubick's remarks regarding LTD's leadership, noting that many other areas were in the process of considering bus rapid transit systems and he expected that LTD would have a visit from a representative of one district soon. He commended LTD's leadership in accessibility and said other districts looked to see what LTD did. He also commended staff. Mr. Evans noted his involvement in the APTA Reauthorization Committee and the APTA Transit Board Members Committee. He anticipated that he would be involved in the federal transit reauthorization effort.

BOARD CALENDARS – Mr. Pangborn called attention to the schedule of future meetings. There were no questions.

WORK SESSION

Pioneer Parkway EMX Review by Springfield City Council

Mr. Schwetz noted the memorandum in the packet explaining the reason for the delay of the joint meeting originally scheduled for October 22.

West Eugene Alignment Alternatives and Process

Mr. Schwetz called attention to the meeting packet developed for the October 8-9 Public Scoping Meeting for the West Eugene EmX Extension Project Environmental Impact Statement, included in the Board meeting packet. He explained that the project was in the scoping phase, which would result in the Purpose and Needs Statement.

Mr. Schwetz said that more than 100 people attended the two meetings, both of which were held at locations in the study corridor. He reviewed the agenda and format of the meetings. Many ideas were received and staff were reviewing them. Outreach on the project scope would continue until November 6. Staff were attempting to schedule an EmX Steering Committee meeting and two Corridor Committee meetings to solicit additional ideas and comments. Staff would then respond to the comments and he hoped to review that work at the Board's November meeting. The Board would be asked to adopt a range of alternatives to take to the environmental process in December. The Board would also be asked to adopt the project's Purpose and Needs Statement.

Mr. Schwetz referred the Board to the project decision timeline, included in the public scoping meeting packet on page 5. He reviewed the timeline.

Mr. Gaydos thanked Mr. Schwetz for his work on the project. He regretted being unable to attend the public scoping meetings and encouraged Board members to attend them and the corridor meetings.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING**Board Member Reports**

Metropolitan Policy Committee—October 11: Mr. Viggiano reported on the recent Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, noting the public hearing on the Regional Transportation Plan tentatively scheduled for adoption in November 2007. Five people had testified. Some of those testifying had objected to specific projects in the plan they did not believe had gone through the proper process and some had objected to how transportation planning was being done because of issues such as global warming. There had been a good discussion on those issues. He believed that the MPC would adopt the plan.

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Board of Directors—September 22: Mr. Dubick reported on the LCOG Board meeting in Oakridge, which had been scheduled to adopt population estimates. He said that adoption was delayed because there was no consensus about the estimates. Mr. Schwetz concurred. He said that the LCOG Board agreed to keep the process open in response to the Lane Board of County Commissioners desire to have a longer process.

Mr. Pangborn asked if the complaints were regarding overestimation or underestimation of population. Mr. Schwetz indicated that a concern was raised by a Lowell resident who was concerned that the estimates were too high for Lowell.

EmX Survey

Mr. Viggiano reminded the Board that a survey of EmX riders had been conducted by the National Bus Rapid Transit Institute. The survey was funded by the Federal Transit Administration and looked at EmX rider trip patterns, trip purposes, and opinions on a variety of service issues. Mr. Viggiano called attention to the survey results, which commenced on page 28 of the packet.

Mr. Viggiano provided a brief PowerPoint presentation showing statistics for Franklin EmX ridership, travel times, reliability, and collisions. Mr. Viggiano then reviewed the survey results. He called attention to Table 7 in the meeting packet, *Customer Ratings of Different Aspects of the Rapid Bus Service*, and noted the generally positive ratings the EmX service received as compared with the #11 in the areas of dependability, wait times, and travel times.

Mr. Viggiano said the results indicated that 29 percent of EmX riders were new riders and that they were more likely to own a car than other bus riders.

Responding to questions from Mr. Gaydos, Mr. Pangborn said that the plan was to complete the survey annually. He suggested that the most appropriate time to institute an EmX fare would be at the time the extended service opened. He said the Board might want to discuss having a free-fare square for EmX, which probably would entail a survey. Mr. Gaydos said that one of the questions was whether novelty drove the increase in ridership. He thought an in-house survey using the same questions would also be appropriate.

Mr. Viggiano called attention to the table on page 38 and noted that 85 percent of riders were in employee or student groups who participated in group pass programs. For those riders, the free fare was clearly not a factor.

Mr. Evans asked if there was a way to determine why people thought the EmX was faster. He suggested that riders' perceptions of the time traveled were different because of the way the route was set up with queue jumping and exclusive lanes. Mr. Viggiano agreed it was clear the perception was there and said staff could look into ways to measure the perception. Mr. Evans observed that light rail also had that affect on people. Mr. Gaydos said the frequency of service might also be a factor. He suggested that the survey questions could be refined to discover the answer to that question.

Annual Route Review

Mr. Vobora and Service Planning Manager Will Mueller provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled *2008 Annual Route Review: Stage One*. Mr. Mueller reported that the 2008-2009 Annual Route Review process would occur in two stages. The process was being modified because of service changes needed to accommodate the opening of the Peace Health River Bend campus. The first phase would address those route changes and the changes would be implemented in June 2008. The Board would hold a public hearing on the changes in November and adopt a

final decision in December. Mr. Mueller said the second phase of the route review would occur as it normally did in early 2008.

Mr. Mueller reviewed the proposed changes, which were focused on the #12 Gateway. Board members asked questions clarifying the details of the changes.

Mr. Vobora said staff had been holding off on changes to the #12 route. He believed the afternoon peak hours were the heaviest hours of use.

Mr. Gaydos wanted to think about neighborhood connectors going into the route as it would ultimately become the bus rapid transit route. Mr. Vobora said staff would map the proposed Pioneer Parkway route and show how other services would connect with that route.

Mr. Gaydos asked if PeaceHealth would want shuttles to the new hospital campus. Mr. Vobora said that was a good question; LTD was awaiting a decision from Peace Health. He anticipated that employees would be surveyed about where they would be working and if they intended to ride the bus, but Peace Health had not yet decided if it would charge employees for parking, which would affect employees' decisions. He noted that currently, Peace Health paid for the 75X shuttle service from the fairgrounds to the hospital, but he understood the hospital would not continue the service as it would no longer be needed.

Mr. Mueller observed that when he talked to PeaceHealth employees, he found that they expected that something would replace the 75X, but LTD had no funds to operate such a service.

Mr. Vobora reviewed the outreach activities that would occur in conjunction with the changes being proposed to the #12 Gateway route.

Mr. Dubick asked about service to shift workers. Mr. Vobora noted that the 75X ran earlier than other buses, but the #12 did not readily accommodate early morning and late night shift work, and neither did the system. If that was a need, it had to be discussed with the hospital. Mr. Dubick had the impression that hospital personnel knew where they would end up when the move occurred. Mr. Vobora agreed, although some had to bid for jobs and would not know for some time. He thought the survey would be useful in identifying if there were early morning needs. Mr. Mueller suggested a hybrid solution could be achieved and staff would try to identify that prior to November.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – The Board recognized Customer Service Representative Zach Fish as Employee of the Month. Mr. Fish introduced his wife Lynn and his five-month old son Gavin.

Mr. Gaydos thanked Mr. Fish for his dedication to LTD's mission and presented Mr. Fish with a certificate of appreciation, a check, and pin commemorating his award. Mr. Fish thanked the Board and said he would not have been honored without the support of his team in Customer Service.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – Mr. Gaydos determined that there was no one wishing to speak.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION **Consent Calendar** – Mr. Dubick moved adoption of LTD Resolution 2007-36: “It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for October 17, 2007, is approved as presented.” Mr. Evans provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the September 19, 2007, Regular Board Meeting and the Budget Committee reappointments of Peter Davidson and Jon Hinds.

VOTE The Consent Calendar was approved as follows:
AYES: Davis, Dubick, Evans, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (6)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: (One Vacancy, Subdistrict 4)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Transit Operations Director Mark Johnson introduced the item, which was a resolution to participate in the APTA emergency response and preparedness program. He described the scope of LTD's involvement and emphasized the voluntary nature of the program.

Responding to a question from Mr. Gaydos, Mr. Johnson said that those running Portland's exercise had not contacted LTD for equipment as the program was just getting up and running. Mr. Pangborn said the Portland exercise was a local exercise. LTD had participated in similar local exercises as well as a real event at the airport.

MOTION Mr. Kortge moved approval of LTD Resolution 2007-37: "A resolution authorizing funding for the APTA Emergency Response Preparedness Program." Mr. Evans provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
AYES: Davis, Dubick, Evans, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (6)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: (One Vacancy, Subdistrict 4)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING (continued)

Student Transit Pass Program Update

Mr. Vobora reported that LTD had received a request from the Department of Energy to postpone the item because the department was still working on its calculations and wanted to pay for actual usage. He believed that the department would generate a figure that would still keep LTD revenue-neutral.

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Hellekson called attention to the report, on page 64 of the packet. She reported that revenues were solid, as was ridership. She expressed concern about fuel costs and noted

rapidly escalating fuel prices. Costs had risen approximately 40 cents in one week and staff would watch the situation carefully given its potential impact. She said that she was also concerned about accessible services costs and would continue to report on them.

Mr. Evans asked what was spiking the cost of fuel. Ms. Hellekson said that crude prices had reached an all-time high.

Monthly Department Reports

There were no questions.

Board Correspondence

There were no questions.

Monthly Performance Reports

There were no questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gaydos adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Board Secretary