

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

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on March 15, 2007, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the LTD Board Room at 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Gerry Gaydos, President, presiding
Susan Ban, Vice President
Michael Dubick
Mike Eyster
Dean Kortge, Secretary
Mark Pangborn, General Manager
Jo Sullivan, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

Absent: Debbie Davis, Treasurer
Greg Evans

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Ms. Ban called the meeting to order and Mr. Pangborn called the roll. Mr. Gaydos was not yet present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – There were no announcements or additions to the agenda.

BOARD CALENDARS – There were no questions.

WORK SESSION

LTD Climate Study – Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Mary Adams stated that LTD was a member of the Diversity and Human Rights Consortium, a group of 11 public employers who organized in a collaborative effort to look at diversity among all of the member organizations. She said a climate (or diversity) survey was designed for use by consortium employers. It was distributed to LTD employees in January 2007. She said the survey was administered by Lockwood and Associates and results provided to LTD's Diversity Council. She introduced several staff members who were members of the council and would be reviewing the information, preparing a report for the Board, and developing a work plan. They were Senior Human Resources Analyst David Collier, Transit Development Planner Anita Yap, Accessible Services Manager Terry Parker, Graphic Designer Hannah Bradford, Bus Operator Ron Brown, and Assistant General Manager Stefano Viggiano.

Ms. Ban asked how LTD compared with other employers. Ms. Adams replied that an article in the *Register-Guard* indicated that the District compared favorably. She said that two issues to

address at LTD appeared to be policies related to antidiscrimination and harassment. She said the most common form of harassment identified was associated with political issues.

Mr. Collier said that a goal of the council was to reach a more diverse population, particularly when recruiting for top management positions for the District.

Ms. Yap said the council would shape an action plan and priorities around issues identified in the survey results. She said a priority would be a succession plan.

Mr. Dubick commented that he saw both positive aspects and challenges in the survey. He said that LTD shared challenges with the other public employers, including recruitment and retention.

Ms. Ban stated that she had seen a presentation about the changing demographics of the area and projections of the population in ten years. She said the nature of the workforce would change significantly and employers would need to plan for that.

West Eugene EmX Corridor Status Report – Director of Planning and Development Tom Schwetz reported that the West Eugene Group (WE) had been discussing issues beyond the West Eugene Parkway (WEP). He said WE had asked LTD and the City of Eugene to join and the membership of the group represented those entities with which the District needed to partner. He said the first 18 months of the process should provide sufficient information about the third corridor alignment to estimate costs for the next federal transportation bill. He said the process would be similar to those used to develop other corridors. He said that EmX was part of the West 11th Avenue traffic solutions and Veneta also was interested in what LTD could do to serve that communities needs better.

Mr. Pangborn said there was some concern about the short timeline of 18 months and there would need to be a backup plan in the event that there was no agreement on a preferred corridor.

Mr. Kortge asked if the corridor process would be focused on West 11th Avenue in various configurations. Mr. Pangborn replied that the City of Eugene had indicated that its second choice for an EmX corridor was Highway 99. He said if significant progress was not made on a West 11th Avenue corridor it might be necessary to begin a second process to consider an alternative, although that would be done in consultation with the City Council.

In response to a question from Mr. Kortge, Mr. Pangborn said the WE process would be started and if it appeared there was a problem with support for a corridor, the Eugene City Council would be asked to help resolve it in a timely manner. Mr. Schwetz said the Board would have a role in helping manage the process and develop the political will to identify a preferred alignment.

Trash at LTD Bus Stops – Director of Service Planning, Accessibility, and Marketing Andy Vobora reported that trash at bus stops and facilities was a concern for all districts. He said that LTD had a process to deal with trash at shelters and was working to educate customers about the problem. He said that littering was a community issue. He identified some of the problem areas and reviewed the strategies being considered to address the problem.

Mr. Eyster said he had only received one complaint about trash since he had been a Board member and asked if there had been a recent upswing in problems. Mr. Vobora replied that it was an ongoing issue.

APTA Conferences – Mr. Pangborn announced that there were American Public Transportation Association (APTA) conferences each year that might appeal to Board members, and referred to materials that described the nature of each conference. He said the conference that occurred around the first of May each year included a series of plenary sessions and hands-on workshops, the July conference was targeted to Board members and support staff and focused on policy issues, and in October there was a general annual conference. He asked Board members to let staff know if they were interested in attending one of the conferences.

Mr. Gaydos arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Kortge questioned whether it would be better to spend money on leadership activities in which all Board members could participate.

Mr. Dubick stated that he was interested in attending a conference and being exposed to a broad range of transit issues.

Ms. Ban said she had attended APTA conferences in the past and found them to be very valuable to her as a Board member.

Mr. Pangborn encouraged Board members to attend at least one APTA conference.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Board Member Reports – There were no questions.

Monthly Financial Report – Director of Finance & Information Technology Diane Hellekson reported that the District's financial condition had been stable for the first eight months of the fiscal year. She said the current monthly financial report was similar to last month and although there was some concern with the rising cost of fuel, it was still below budget.

United Front Update – Mr. Gaydos reported that the United Front initiative, which presented a coordinated set of local priorities for federal funding, was a valuable process in which local jurisdictions and public agencies, including LTD, participated each year. He encouraged LTD's continued participation and was pleased with the support for transit provided by United Front partners.

Legislative Update – Ms. Adams provided an overview of HB 2537, which would prohibit transit employees from striking and would require binding arbitration for collective bargaining agreements. She said the bill had been amended to remove language that would have made staffing levels a mandatory subject of bargaining. She said the bill was introduced on behalf of the Amalgamated Transit Union, which testified in support, and testimony in opposition was presented by the Oregon Transit Association. She noted that the LTD Board had not taken a position on the bill and TriMet was neutral as long as the bill passed as amended.

Ms. Ban asked if testimony had been presented on SB 476. Mr. Pangborn said the bill, related to the governance structure of the LTD Board, was in the process of being amended to eliminate the need for redistricting.

In response to a question from Mr. Eyster, Ms. Adams said that currently only OTA had taken a position in opposition to HB 2537, and several legislators had indicated their support.

Mr. Pangborn said there was support for HB 2422, which would increase the cigarette tax to fund Elderly and Disabled Transportation, but the governor did not support it. He said the governor perceived the bill as competing with his initiative to fund health care for children. Mr. Pangborn said that the ConnectOregon 2 bill was moving forward and the initiative to obtain funding from high-capacity transit bonds to meet EmX local match requirements was moving forward.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – Transit Operations Manager Mark Johnson introduced April 2007 Employee of the Month Bus Operator Gloria Turcotte. He said that Ms. Turcotte had been nominated by a fellow bus operator and would be retiring soon after 30 years as an LTD employee.

Mr. Gaydos presented Ms. Turcotte with her award. Ms. Turcotte thanked the Board for her recognition and expressed her appreciation to the District. She said she would be sad to retire.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – Mr. Gaydos called for comments from the public.

Melvin Barnes of Springfield reiterated his request for enhanced service in certain areas as originally proposed during his testimony at the February 12, 2007, public hearing on service recommendations.

Ilna Koleszar, a member of Residents for Responsible Rapid Transit (3RT) read a statement regarding an EmX corridor in West Eugene and submitted her statement in writing.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION **Consent Calendar** – Mr. Eyster moved adoption of LTD Resolution 2007-011: “It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for March 21, 2007, is approved as presented.” Mr. Dubick provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the February 12, 2007, special Board meeting and the February 21, 2007, regular Board meeting.

VOTE The Consent Calendar was approved as follows:
 AYES: Ban, Dubick, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
 NAYS: None
 ABSTENTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: Davis, Evans (2)

Fiscal Year 2007-08 Pricing Plan and First Reading of Amended Fare Ordinance – Mr. Vobora distributed a handout titled *LTD Pricing History* and reviewed the history of group pass price fare increases. He noted that the fare changes had been the subject of two public hearings.

Mr. Eyster commented that 8 percent seemed like a large increase.

Mr. Dubick asked if there had been feedback from group pass customers. Mr. Vobora replied that all customers had been notified and no responses had been received.

Mr. Kortge said the Finance Committee had reviewed the increase and did not think it was inappropriate.

Ms. Hellekson noted that fuel prices had doubled during the same period and personnel services costs were also growing.

Ms. Ban asked if there was a risk that some employers would leave the program. Mr. Vobora replied that the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) was becoming more popular as a way to realize savings from participation in the program.

Mr. Pangborn remarked that increases were a difficult decision, but it was important to try to avoid having the business community subsidize the pass program.

Mr. Kortge commented that the District could not operate in a deficit.

Mr. Vobora pointed out that the group pass program was still a great bargain.

Mr. Dubick said the Finance Committee thought that the increase was reasonable, consistent with the formula, and based on costs. Mr. Pangborn added that the District had attempted to track increases in fares to inflation.

MOTION Mr. Kortge moved that the Fourteenth Amended Ordinance No. 35 be read by title only. Ms. Ban provided the second.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
AYES: Ban, Dubick, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Davis, Evans (2)

Ms. Ban read the title: "Fourteenth Amended Ordinance No. 35, An Ordinance Setting Fares for the Use of District Services."

Fiscal Year 2007-08 Service Proposal – Mr. Vobora reviewed the 2007 Service Proposal and stated that public testimony had been received over the past three months. He pointed out that the proposal had been amended based on the public comment, including implementing some service during the summer bid instead of the fall bid.

Mr. Kortge recognized Mel Barnes for his advocacy for routes and encouraged him to continue providing input to the District.

MOTION Ms. Ban moved approval of LTD Resolution 2007-012: "It is hereby resolved that the LTD Board of Directors approves the FY 2007-08 service recommendations as presented on March 21,

2007, and as shown on the 2007 Annual Route Review Service Change Summary. Mr. Kortge provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
AYES: Ban, Dubick, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Davis, Evans (2)

Long-Range Financial Plan – Ms. Hellekson said the Finance Committee had reviewed three versions of the Long-Range Financial Plan (LRFP) based on growth in personnel services and year-end estimates and was recommending Board approval of the version contained in the agenda packet. She noted that the plan included an assumption of \$2.35 per gallon for fuel and there was no debt financing.

Mr. Kortge expressed concern about the accessible services budget issue and the increasing demand for services. He said it would be difficult to project future increases as the population aged.

Ms. Hellekson said the LRFP was a rolling plan and she expected it would be below the \$6 million in reserves by the sixth year, although the assumptions in the plan were conservative and adjustments could be made in earlier years.

There was a discussion of the impacts of employee retirements, overtime, and use of leave on the budget.

MOTION Mr. Kortge moved approval of LTD Resolution 2007-013: "It is hereby resolved that the revised Long-Range Financial Plan is approved as presented. Ms. Ban provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
AYES: Ban, Dubick, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Davis, Evans (2)

Forming Focused Subcommittees for EmX Steering Committee – Mr. Schwetz explained that as the EmX project became focused on two geographically separated areas (Pioneer Parkway and West Eugene), the Steering Committee had discussed creating two subcommittees--one to focus on each of the geographic areas. He said the recommendation was for the Steering Committee to appoint the subcommittees, with at least three Steering Committee members on each. He said that additional subcommittee members could be appointed on an as-needed basis or as directed by the Board. He said the subcommittee for West Eugene could coordinate with the WE group. He noted that a 3RT member had been invited to participate with that group.

Mr. Kortge questioned the need for subcommittees in the absence of clear direction from the City of Eugene. Mr. Schwetz responded that the Steering Committee approach had worked well with the Franklin Corridor, which involved both Eugene and Springfield. He said there were now two

processes, one for each city, and it made sense to have two groups. He said the Steering Committee would continue to provide overall perspective to the process.

Ms. Ban remarked that the subcommittee approach would be similar to the stakeholder strategy used for the Coburg Road process.

Mr. Dubick commented that there were two projects in two separate locations dealing with different sets of challenges. He said the subcommittees could address the details of their respective projects and bring large issues to the Steering Committee for decisions. Mr. Schwetz agreed. He said the subcommittees would likely meet on a monthly basis and be involved in projects at a much more detailed level than the Steering Committee. He said the subcommittees would be advisory to the Steering Committee and not be responsible for making decisions; the subcommittees would not diminish the role of the Steering Committee.

MOTION Mr. Eyster moved approval of LTD Resolution 2007-014: "It is hereby resolved that the EmX Steering Committee is directed to appoint individual corridor-focused subcommittees as needed." Mr. Dubick provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
AYES: Ban, Dubick, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Davis, Evans (2)

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Board Secretary