

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

Monday, December 11, 2006

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on December 7, 2006, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held a special Board meeting on Monday, December 11, 2006, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the LTD Board Room at 3500 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene.

Present:           Gerry Gaydos, President, presiding  
                      Susan Ban, Vice President  
                      Debbie Davis, Treasurer  
                      Mike Eyster  
                      David Gant  
                      Dean Kortge, Secretary  
                      Mark Pangborn, General Manager  
                      Jo Sullivan, Clerk of the Board, Minutes Recorder

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Gaydos called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Greg Evans and Michael Dubick, who had been appointed to the Board for terms beginning on January 1, 2007, also were present. Mr. Evans and Mr. Dubick signed their oaths of office, to be filed with the Secretary of State’s office prior to their first official Board meeting in January.

**BOARD CALENDARS** – Mr. Pangborn called the Board’s attention to an executive session on labor negotiations scheduled for January 8, 2007, and the regular monthly meeting on January 17, 2007. He also told the Board that the EmX dedication was scheduled for noon on Sunday, January 14, and that the new administrator of the Federal Transportation Administration, James Simpson, was scheduled to attend, as was Congressman Peter DeFazio, the new chair of the House Transportation Subcommittee. The Board members also were invited to attend an employee appreciation and EmX celebration event on Sunday, January 21, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Eugene Hilton.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH** – The January 2007 Employee of the Month, Bus Operator Margaret Lead, was unable to attend the meeting, so would be introduced to the Board in January.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** – There was no one present who wished to address the Board.

**WORK SESSION**

**Franklin EmX Update** – Director of Service Planning, Accessibility, and Marketing Andy Vobora began the presentation. He briefly discussed the public relations focus and advertising activities for the EmX corridor. He said that the initial corridor would be called the Green Line and the “tag line” for the first corridor would be “Green and Growing.” Mr. Vobora also outlined the

promotional activities that were occurring, and said that a system map with EmX information would be available to give to the public.

Facilities Services Manager Charlie Simmons provided a construction update, stating that construction was almost complete. Signage would be installed in the next couple of weeks, and signal issues were being monitored and were working well for operator training.

Director of Maintenance George Trauger told the Board that the fourth EmX vehicle had arrived on December 6 and had been inspected. The fifth vehicle arrived on December 9, and the sixth was due soon. Mechanics would receive training from the manufacturer, New Flyer, at the end of January, and would be receiving local support before that time.

Director of Transit Operations Mark Johnson provided a training update. He said that following the training of the LTD instructors, the EmX operators had begun training the previous week. The operators were excited; some were very senior operators. Training was occurring from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Maintenance was working very hard to have three EmX vehicles available each day, and the operators were learning very fast. Some experimentation was occurring regarding how to handle certain areas of the corridor, how to save time, etc. The operators had not yet had the opportunity to train with a lot of people getting on and off, but the last week would involve people, including some training for people with special transportation training needs.

**General Manager Announcements** – Mr. Pangborn distributed copies of the latest edition of *Inside Lane*, the employee newsletter, noting that it included some good information to respond to employee questions and rumors about EmX. He called attention to information that LTD had completed an excellent United Way campaign and had received some very nice awards from local organizations. Mr. Pangborn also introduced Tom Schwetz, who had been hired to fill the vacant director of Planning and Development position.

**Not-for-Profit Discount Program Update** – Mr. Vobora explained that he wanted to touch base with the Board regarding extra money that had been received from the City of Eugene targeted for transportation services for the homeless. Of the \$50,000 in the City's 2006-07 budget, \$20,000 was allotted to purchase discount tokens. This allowed agencies to purchase twice as many discounted fares. Accessible Services Program Manager Terry Parker had suggested that half of the remaining \$30,000 be put into the program's contract with White Bird to meet critical needs to transport White Bird clients, who often needed taxi rides because they were difficult to accommodate on the bus, and that the other half be used as match for a New Freedoms grant. Mr. Vobora said that staff would continue to monitor these programs and report back to the Board.

**Annual Charter Notification** -- Mr. Vobora explained that LTD was required to notify area charter providers each year of the opportunity to provide charter services. If they wanted to provide those services, LTD would step aside. However, generally the local providers were not interested in local charter service; they wanted to keep their buses on the road to other places. If no one stepped forward to provide these local services, then LTD was permitted to provide charter services, but on a limited basis. This allowed the District to serve community events that otherwise would go unserved. The annual notification had been made, and no one had notified LTD of a desire to provide local charter service.

**Monthly Financial Report** – Director of Finance and Information Technology Diane Hellekson handed out the financial and performance reports for November 2006. She noted that ridership

was very strong, with an 11 percent gain in the most recent twelve months. Concerns were that fuel costs were rising again and that the November payroll tax receipts were not what staff had hoped to see, but were 7.1 percent and trending upward, so staff would continue to monitor them. Payroll tax revenues were projected at 9 percent for the current year.

**Celebration in Honor of Board Member David Gant** – Mr. Gaydos noted that this would be Mr. Gant's last Board meeting. He stated that he had truly appreciated Mr. Gant's contribution to the Board from many perspectives. He said that Mr. Gant had done the best job of thinking about rural issues and an excellent job of reminding the Board to be stewards of the public money, especially in terms of EmX. He thought that because of Mr. Gant, the Board had had more robust discussions and a broader perspective, and those led to better decisions. Mr. Gaydos said that Mr. Gant also had recognized that LTD might not be contributing as much as it should in the area of pension funding, which he thought made the District better and more responsive. Mr. Gaydos told Mr. Gant that it had been a pleasure working with him on the Board and that he was sad that Mr. Gant would not be there for another four years.

Ms. Ban agreed with Mr. Gaydos' comments and added that she enjoyed the way Mr. Gant pushed the Board to think critically about things and still keep a sense of humor. Mr. Pangborn added that one of the joys of working at LTD was that the staff always felt supported by the Board, even when there were legitimate differences of opinions about issues. Ms. Davis said she wanted to be sure that people knew that Mr. Gant did not always disagree, but did bring robust debate to the table. Mr. Eyster added that Mr. Gant was a model of accountability in a public role.

Mr. Pangborn presented a plaque to Mr. Gant and thanked him for his four years of service on the Board. Mr. Gant said that he would be watching EmX and hoped that it would be a success. He stated that his objections had been in terms of timing, but he thought that EmX would be a good thing for the community. Regarding the pension plan, he said he hoped that the newest Board members heard that it was imperative to think ahead, because the people working at LTD were a good, forward-thinking group who deserved the Board's support for their futures. He thought the Board had done a good job. He also said that it was easy to understand LTD's budget and that he was very impressed with the staff and Board and their dedication, and that he would miss them all.

The Board took a break from 6:35 to 6:47 to serve cake in honor of Mr. Gant.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Ms. Ban moved that the Board meet in Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(i), to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the LTD general manager. Mr. Eyster seconded, and the motion carried by unanimous vote, as follows:

AYES: Ban, Davis, Eyster, Gant, Gaydos, Kortge (6)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

EXCUSED: None

The Board met in Executive session from 6:47 p.m. to 7:14 p.m. General Manager Mark Pangborn, Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Mary Adams, and Clerk of the Board Jo Sullivan also were present.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION** – Upon a motion by Ms. Ban and seconding by Mr. Eyster, the Board returned to open session at 7:14 p.m. Following the executive session, Board members made comments in open session commending Mr. Pangborn for understanding the culture of the organization and for his efforts to work for positive change toward a culture that supported everyone. They also praised his honesty and integrity, which had gained respect from other governments and LTD employees. The Board also appreciated the thoroughness and breadth of the assessment process, stating that it evoked authentic comments from employees that helped the Board get a real picture of what was happening, and said that this picture was very, very positive. The Board commended Mr. Pangborn for his good work and stated that they truly appreciated his efforts and looked forward to many years of his continued service.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Board Secretary