

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on March 13, 2014, 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 and public hearing on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Lane Community College Downtown Center, Room 114, 101 West 10th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon.

Present: Doris Towery, President
Gary Gillespie, Vice President
Michael Dubick, Secretary
Ed Necker, Treasurer
Julie Grossman
Gary Wildish
Carl Yeh
Ron Kilcoyne, General Manager
Jeanne Schapper, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Ms. Towery convened the meeting of the Lane Transit District (LTD) at 5:35 p.m. and called the roll.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: Ms. Towery noted that there would be public hearings on three items during the meeting, in addition to the Audience Participation portion of the meeting, and reminded the audience to sign up on the appropriate list if they wished to speak during a hearing. Testimony would be limited to three minutes.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

BOARD CALENDARS: Mr. Kilcoyne reviewed the calendars and noted that a second public hearing on fares and services would be held on April 7, with the regular Board meeting scheduled for April 16. The April 14 work session is canceled. He said the May 21 Board meeting would begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by a Budget Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: The Board recognized Bus Operator Teresa Clark as the April Employee of the Month.

Ms. Towery thanked Ms. Clark for her service and dedication to LTD's mission. Ms. Towery presented Ms. Clark with a certificate of appreciation, check, and pin commemorating the award. Ms. Clark thanked the Board for the recognition.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Ms. Towery explained the procedures for providing public testimony.

Bob Macherione, Eugene, representing Our Money, Our Transit ((OMOT), expressed his disappointment that there were few people signed up to testify during the public hearings. He was disturbed with how LTD presented and interpreted itself as he felt it was inconsistent with the facts. He noted that last month the District reported a 2.9 percent drop in ridership, while this month the number had decreased to a 1.9 percent drop. He believed that the drop was not due to increased ridership, but rather that Country Fair and football game shuttles were now incorporated into ridership data. He said it was hard for the public to understand the data if it was not reported consistently. He did not think LTD should claim it had funding for projects when it did not or report inaccurate ridership data. He said that statistics had gone in the wrong direction since the first EmX line was opened in 2008, and he reminded the Board that he was an advocate for basic bus service.

Mr. Kilcoyne clarified that reporting of ridership data had changed as a result of incorporating Country Fair and football service, in accordance with federal reporting requirements.

PUBLIC HEARING: FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 PRICING PLAN: Ms. Towery opened the public hearing.

Director of Customer Services and Planning Andy Vobora said that in accordance with Board policies, the impact of pricing changes on Title VI populations was one of the factors staff had considered. He said the Title VI equity analysis indicated there was no disproportionate impact on any protected classes. He reviewed the specific pricing recommendations:

- \$2.00 increase in adult one-month pass price; \$1.00 increase in half-fare pass price
- \$5.00 increase in adult three-month pass price; \$2.50 increase in half-fare pass price
- \$0.30 increase in monthly group pass price (taxpayer)
- \$0.35 increase in monthly group pass price (non-taxpayer)

Mr. Vobora noted that there had been no increase in pass prices since 2010, and the proposed increase equated to approximately 1 percent per year, with inflation during that same period at an average of 2 percent per year.

Mr. Vobora reviewed equity analysis charts that demonstrated impact on Title VI populations in various categories and emphasized the lack of disparate impact on any specific group. He said a robust public outreach campaign elicited a large number of comments from the community, which were included in the agenda materials.

In response to a question from Mr. Necker, Mr. Vobora said that a decision by the Board would be made at the Board's regular meeting in April, following a second public hearing earlier in the month.

Ms. Grossman asked how LTD's pricing compared to other comparable districts, Mr. Vobora said that in a review of peer agencies in the Northwest, LTD's fares were below the average. He said that LTD tried to balance the necessary fare box recovery rate with reasonable fares for the region's ridership. Mr. Vobora indicated that he would provide specific information to the Board and make it available at the next public hearing.

Ms. Towery determined there was no one wishing to testify and closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2014 ANNUAL ROUTE REVIEW: Ms. Towery opened the public hearing.

Mr. Vobora summarized the proposed route changes, details of which were provided in the agenda packet along with the public comments received to date. With respect to Route 11 Thurston, he said a mass mailing had been made to the neighborhood and an open house was scheduled at the Relief Nursery. He anticipated that would generate a significant number of additional comments.

Mr. Vobora described the analysis of service changes to identify concentrations of protected populations and determine the impact on disabled, limited English proficiency, elderly, and low-income individuals. A copy of the full Title VI report would be provided to the Board. He summarized the extensive public outreach activities to date and those planned in the future, and said input received so far had been very valuable.

Ms. Towery asked staff to elicit outreach at the Springfield Senior Center, which was served by Route 19 Fairview and would be impacted by changes. Mr. Vobora said that staff had talked to the Center's director about changes and opportunities for input, but would try to schedule an event there before the Board made a decision.

Mr. Necker asked to what extent holiday service would be restored. Mr. Vobora replied that it would be Sunday-level service.

Mr. Gillespie liked the proposed changes to Route 27 Fairmount but asked how the bus would be routed in downtown. Mr. Vobora said that the proposal was to come down 11th Avenue as it currently did, serving the stop at 11th Avenue and High Street and going directly to the Eugene Station.

Mr. Gillespie commented that 11th Avenue and High Street was a good stop for those going to City Hall and asked what the closest stop would be if the bus was routed down Oak Street. Mr. Vobora said it would be at 12th Avenue.

Mr. Yeh observed that adding holiday service was the most expensive of the proposed changes. He liked the concept but wondered how many additional boardings it would generate compared with spreading the additional service among other routes. Mr. Vobora said that based on ridership history, he anticipated close to 10,000 daily boardings on those dates. Holiday service was particularly important to transit users who needed to get to work on those dates. Ms. Towery added that cutting holiday service had generated the most comments.

Mr. Wildish said that he was impressed with the survey and input from the public and found many of the comments very pertinent and valuable. He hoped they would be taken into consideration during planning activities.

Ms. Towery said she had heard much positive feedback on the proposed changes to Route 11 Thurston and improved accessibility.

Ms. Towery called for testimony.

Steve Lee, Coburg, stated that he had purchased the former Monaco Coach facility in Coburg and hoped to have 800 employees at the site by the end of the year. He said that other businesses would be moving to Coburg and thanked LTD staff for their responsiveness. He said

that the price of industrial land in the Coburg area had increased, and construction of a municipal sewer system would promote new residential development. He hoped that LTD would work with Coburg area employers to provide increased service, and he stated his belief that many businesses were willing to pay for their employees to ride the bus. He saw increasing demand for transit in the Coburg area as industrial and residential development continued to rise.

Bob Macherione, Eugene, said LTD had a 19 percent decrease in service in 2010, and he had testified many times about restoring service to low-income housing on Brewer Lane. He did not believe rerouting of Route 96 Coburg did that. He stated his belief that LTD concentrated on the 58 percent of riders who were students, and he did not appreciate that elderly and low-income people needed the same concentration. He said that LTD needed to provide the resources to go back to where it was. He said that providing seven buses a day to a population that needed transit was insufficient. He said the Cal Young neighborhood was decimated for basic bus service, and token rerouting through the area was not a restoration of service. He felt that \$80,000 per year was not too much to restore the Brewer Lane service.

There being no one else wishing to testify, Ms. Towery closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2015-2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP): Ms. Towery opened the public hearing.

Finance Manager Todd Lipkin pointed out that the Fiscal Year 2015-2024 CIP was included in the agenda packet. He said that the public comment period for the document opened on March 14 and would remain open until April 13. Comments would be provided to the Board prior to its April 16 meeting, and the Board would be asked to approve the CIP at that meeting. He added that the first year of the CIP would inform the budget that would be developed in May.

Ms. Towery called for testimony.

Bob Macherione, Eugene, said that LTD had come to rely on capital improvements to fund other parts of its budget. He said that LTD was overly optimistic on the West Eugene EmX Extension and did not have the funding for the project, noting that \$1.6 million was being taken from last fiscal year's General Fund and being placed in the West Eugene EmX project. He added that another \$1.7 million was being put into the project this year. He questioned why restoration of basic bus service was being delayed when funds were being used for the West Eugene project. He declared that the project was unneeded and would not improve transit times in the corridor, yet LTD was pressing forward. He said that the project would not result in savings, and LTD would have to spend \$1.25 million in operation costs. He said that the District was reducing basic bus service while proceeding with projects that were very expensive; some of those funds could have been used for service to Brewer Lane. He said that the District's priorities were mixed up. He cited the cost of a bus station at RiverBend, but felt it would not increase ridership while LTD continues to refuse requests for basic bus service. He urged the Board to reconsider its decisions.

There being no one else wishing to testify, Ms. Towery closed the public hearing.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING:

Consent Calendar: Mr. Gillespie asked that the Minutes of the February 19, 2014, Regular Board Meeting be removed from the Consent Calendar.

MOTION Ms. Grossman moved adoption of LTD Resolution No. 2014-006: It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for March 19, 2014, is approved without the Minutes of the February 19, 2014, Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Dubick provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the nomination of Terry Smith to the LTD Board Budget Committee.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
AYES: Dubick, Gillespie, Grossman, Necker, Towery, Yeh, Wildish (7)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: None

Minutes of February 19, 2014, Regular Board Meeting: Mr. Gillespie explained that at the Regular Board Meeting of February 19, 2014, he did not cast an oral vote on the matter of designation of the Lane Transit District Labor Negotiations Team, but wished to be recorded in the minutes as abstaining, although he did not indicate that at the time of the vote.

Ms. Towery indicated that staff would research the matter, and approval of the February 19, 2014, minutes would be postponed to the next meeting. That Board members indicated their agreement to postpone the matter.

Long-Range Transit Plan: Planning and Development Manager Tom Schwetz quoted Patrick Gallagher of the U.S. Department of Commerce who, at a recent conference, posed two questions regarding the transportation system relevant to the Long-Range Transit Plan (LRTP):

- How do we collectively own something so critical to our shared prosperity?
- How do we make investments now in something that will benefit us later?

Mr. Schwetz said that those questions addressed the fundamental reasons why it was important to develop plans for the regional transportation system and an insightful way to view the matter. He said that moving toward a collaborative approach to developing and improving the transportation system was a key asset in developing shared prosperity and investing in the future. He said that aspiration for a higher level of collaboration was embodied in the LRTP goals and policies. He commended staff for the design and layout of the plan, a copy of which was provided in the agenda packet. He urged Board members to listen to the TED Talk by Angela Duckworth on the subject of factors that pointed to success in education: passion and perseverance for long-term goals. He asked the Board to adopt the Plan for that reason and as a commitment to the future.

MOTION Mr. Wildish moved approval of LTD Resolution No. 2014-007: It is hereby resolved that the Lane Transit District Long-Range Transit Plan is approved as presented. Mr. Yeh provided the second.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
AYES: Dubick, Gillespie, Grossman, Necker, Towery, Yeh, Wildish (7)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: None

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING:

Board Member Reports: There were no questions or additional comments.

2014 Legislative Session Recap: LTD lobbyist Doug Barber provided an overview of the 2014 Legislative Session. He said that the session was 35 days long and intended to fine tune the state's budget and address policy issues not resolved during the previous, longer legislative session. He said some major issues, such as gun control and privatizing liquor sales, were proposed but not enacted. He added that while the legislature was in session, the governor negotiated for the removal of a number of controversial petitions that would have appeared on the ballot in November. He highlighted other issues that were proposed or discussed during the short session.

Government Relations Manager Edward McGlone said that one of LTD's priorities during the session was additional money for the Special Transportation Fund. The goal was \$5 million; and the legislature authorized an additional \$4 million, bringing the biennium total to \$11 million. He said that was the largest allocation for paratransit services since 2007, and LTD's share would be approximately \$1 million.

Mr. McGlone said TriMet was moving away from cash fares and moving toward adopting an electronic fare system. The agency had requested legislation to eliminate the statutory requirement as a public agency to disclose personal information that was collected through an electronic fare management system. He said that the final version would require disclosure only when determined by a judge to be in the public's interest. He said he believed there would be very limited instances in which public need would be a factor.

Mr. McGlone said the Columbia River Crossing (CRC) bridge replacement project also was discussed but not enacted. The subject of e-cigarettes, a nicotine delivery device that used an inhaled vapor instead of tobacco, also was discussed. He said there were currently no statutory restrictions on who could use e-cigarettes and where they could be used, although LTD prohibited them on buses or inside its facilities. Although no action was taken during the short session, he expected that the issue would be addressed during the next session and would have a direct impact on LTD's operations and facilities.

Mr. Barber commented that the filing deadline last week resulted in few competitive races for legislative seats across the state. He said there were no transit-related ballot measures at this point, but the Board would be notified if any measures qualified for the ballot.

Oakridge Service Review: Accessible and Customer Services Manager Cosette Rees explained that LTD was the designated Special Transportation Fund (STF) agency for Lane County and acted as the pass-through and oversight agency for federal and state funding of human services transportation programs throughout Lane County.

Ms. Rees said that transportation services to Oakridge included the Diamond Express, which operated three weekday roundtrips between Oakridge and downtown, averaging 16,000 trips annually; and the local meal-site service, which provided approximately 700 rides per year delivering meals to people who were homebound and delivering people to the meal site for lunch.

Ms. Rees said that in reviewing those services, staff had determined that the funding for Diamond Express required through service to other destinations; and, consequently, contracts with Greyhound and Amtrak were necessary in order to make the Diamond Express a connection between Oakridge and other points. For example, someone could purchase an Amtrak ticket to Oakridge, with a portion of the trip being on Amtrak and a portion being on the Diamond Express; although it would be a seamless process from the traveler's perspective. Staff were currently negotiating those agreements and working out details of the arrangements.

Ms. Rees said that, initially, the meal-site delivery service was primarily transporting people to the meal site and delivering a few meals to homes. Since its inception 11 years ago, that pattern had reversed and now delivered many meals, with only a few people being transported to the meal site. She said that was not an allowable use of public transit vehicles, and staff were exploring options for transitioning that service to Lane Council of Governments Senior Services, which provide meal delivery in other areas of Lane County. She said that the current meal delivery funding could then be used to provide a true dial-a-ride service within Oakridge to better serve the community.

Ms. Rees said a community-wide survey and outreach would be conducted on ways to improve Oakridge services, and results would be reported to the LTD Board before any changes were implemented.

Monthly Financial Report: Director of Finance and Information Technology Diane Hellekson reported that all major financial indicators were positive, with a 6.4 percent increase in payroll tax receipts over last year. She said that the volatility of fuel prices at gas stations did not necessarily affect diesel; and prices had been more stable than in the past, with expenses well under budget. She said that the District was experiencing a large number of retirements and the subsequent cashing in of accrued leave, but new hires were coming in at greatly reduced wages. She expected that would be beneficial in the long-term to controlling personnel services costs.

ADJOURNMENT:


Ms. Towery adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT



Michael Dubick
Board Secretary

ATTEST:



Jeanne Schapper
Clerk of the Board

Q:\Reference\Board Packet\2014\4\April 16 Reg Mtg\BD Minutes 3-19-2014.doc

Approved: April 7, 2014