

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

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on March 11, 2010, 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/work session on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the LTD Board Room at 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Mike Eyster, President
Ed Necker, Treasurer
Michael Dubick
Doris Towery
Gary Gillespie
Stefano Viggiano, Assistant General Manager
Jeanne Schapper, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

Absent: Greg Evans, Vice President
Dean Kortge, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mr. Eyster convened the meeting and called the roll at 5:34 p.m.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: Mr. Eyster announced that LTD was receiving a dividend check from the State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) in the amount of \$129,076 as its share of a \$100 million dividend to be divided among employers who purchased Workers' Compensation insurance from SAIF in 2008. He then recognized Board Member Ed Necker, who was recently honored as the 2010 Compassion Hero by the American Red Cross in recognition of the many hours he has volunteered in the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Mr. Eyster said that he and Director of Service Planning, Accessibility, and Marketing Andy Vobora met with Springfield Chamber of Commerce representatives and provided a status report on the District's service reduction plans. There were no additions to the agenda.

BOARD CALENDARS: Mr. Viggiano noted that a Board Human Resources meeting was scheduled for April 13, 2010.

WORK SESSION

Diversity Council Presentation – Results of LTD Climate Survey: Graphic Artist Hannah Bradford and Bus Operator Fred Pearson, LTD Diversity Council members, presented the results of a recent survey of LTD employees that was designed to assess the programs and initiatives implemented by the Diversity Council. They explained the survey methodology and said that

there was more diversity among LTD survey respondents than in the Lane County population. Ms. Bradford and Mr. Pearson reviewed the survey questions and response rates. They indicated that mean scores had improved across all survey areas since the first survey that was conducted in 2007.

Ms. Bradford said that the responses differed between males and females in the areas of professional growth and promotional opportunities. Ms. Bradford commented that the Council would review data from LTD employee data concerning female and minority employees who had left the organization voluntarily to determine if there was a pattern. She noted that there were many positive comments about the training opportunities that LTD offered.

Ms. Bradford pointed out that the survey response was fairly small and speculated that sending out the survey in December may have attributed to the lack of response. She said that respondents were unanimously positive about working for LTD. Mr. Dubick asked if there were ways to incentivize responses to improve the rate of response. Ms. Bradford said that the Council had offered employees incentives in the form of vendor credits; however, it was difficult to manage because, for confidentiality reasons, the completed surveys were submitted directly to the firm that was tabulating the results. Mr. Viggiano said that the survey would not be conducted in December the next time because there were too many distractions during the holidays.

Review March 8, 2010, Public Hearing on Proposed Service and Fare Changes: Mr. Vobora summarized the service and fare changes being proposed. He noted that LTD's fares were at the mid-point in a range of fares from other districts. He said that there were two more open houses scheduled to inform the public about the proposed changes as well as to receive comments regarding the proposed changes. Mr. Vobora stated that work had commenced on the June 2010 bid and that staff would next proceed to the September 2010 and January 2011 bids to implement service changes.

Mr. Vobora said that there was continuing concern about the Fairview route, but the recommendation to eliminate the route in January 2011 remained unchanged.

Mr. Gillespie agreed that there were concerns about eliminating the Fairview route because of the population that would no longer be served; however, he felt that the onus for increasing boardings on the route should rest with the agencies that served that population, rather than on LTD. He asked if the District could defer a decision to eliminate that route until September and challenge agencies to increase the ridership of their clients. Service Planning Manager Will Mueller replied that April and May would offer the only opportunities to increase boardings, as ridership was typically down in the summer. He added that he did not think a challenge would be effective as the Fairview area historically had low ridership. Retaining service on the Fairview route would be a decision based on social service, not productivity.

In response to a question from Mr. Dubick, Mr. Vobora explained that Fairview riders could still access bus service, but less conveniently, and some would probably switch to RideSource. He added that staff could analyze the financial tradeoffs between preserving the route and increasing RideSource usage.

Mr. Eyster suggested that the Board consider preserving the route as an essential service to those riders, rather than a productivity issue.

Ms. Towery noted that the route served an area with one of the highest densities of low income, senior, and disabled populations in the area. She was concerned that eliminating the Fairview route would prevent those riders from being able to connect with the community. She wondered if there were opportunities to negotiate with the District's partners to find creative ways to preserve the service. Mr. Vobora said that staff also would determine if grant funds might be available.

Mr. Necker commented that the District's productivity guidelines had never been adjusted.

Mr. Mueller said that it could be cost effective for the District to consider partnering with taxis to provide service in the Fairview area.

Mr. Dubick agreed that it may be preferable to look at alternatives to providing transportation instead of trying to maintain regular bus service.

Mr. Viggiano remarked that the route had always been low productivity and was, therefore, continuously under consideration for service reductions. He said that it was difficult for riders in that neighborhood to go through the process of possibly losing service each time there was an Annual Route Review, and if the intent was to provide a lower level of service now with the potential of eliminating service in the future or of preserving the service from future cuts, that message should be clarified for that community.

Mr. Eyster said that the route could not be shielded from future cuts at this point.

Mr. Mueller understood the desire to maintain some level of service to the area; however, the limited service solution was not efficient as it would result in empty, deadheading buses about 60 percent of the time.

Mr. Vobora reviewed other service changes and said that staff continued to review comments and suggestions from the public. He noted that the University of Oregon had been offered the option of purchasing trips to Lowell for the crew team.

Mr. Mueller reaffirmed that the Board wished to have the Fairview limited service route included in the service package.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – APRIL 2010: Director of Transit Operations Mark Johnson introduced Bus Operator Darryl Whitaker as the April 2010 Employee of the Month. He was nominated for the award by a customer due to his ability to stay calm, courteous, and cheerful in stressful situations.

Mr. Whitaker said that he was honored to receive the award.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Mr. Eyster explained the guidelines for providing testimony to the Board.

Kim Davis, Blanton Heights Road, Eugene, introduced her son Jake, who uses RideSource because of his disabilities. She expressed concern that even though she lived within the LTD tax district, her home was outside of the RideSource service boundary, and she had to take her son to another location within the RideSource boundary to catch a ride. She also was concerned that

on occasion there was some miscommunication between dispatch and RideSource drivers that resulted in Jake not getting picked up and even being left alone. She said that her son faced many obstacles, and it was very important for him to be able to take RideSource to services and activities. She asked that the District extend the RideSource boundary to include her residence.

Mr. Vobora replied that staff would review the issues raised by Ms. Davis and report their findings to the Board.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION **Consent Calendar:** Mr. Gillespie moved adoption of LTD Resolution 2010-009: It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for March 17, 2010, is approved as presented. Mr. Necker provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the January 20, 2010, Regular Board Meeting.

VOTE The Consent Calendar was approved as follows:
 AYES: Dubick, Eyster, Gillespie, Necker, Towery (5)
 NAYS: None
 ABSTENTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: Evans, Kortge (2)

Public Hearing and Approval – FY 2011-18 Capital Improvements Program: Financial Services Manager Todd Lipkin stated that the public comment period for the FY 2011-18 Capital Improvements Program had closed on March 5, 2010, and no comments had been received.

Mr. Eyster opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to testify, he closed the hearing.

MOTION Ms. Towery moved adoption of LTD Resolution 2010-010: It is hereby resolved that the Draft FY 2011-18 Capital Improvements Program is approved as presented. Mr. Dubick provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
 AYES: Dubick, Eyster, Gillespie, Necker, Towery (5)
 NAYS: None
 ABSTENTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: Evans, Kortge (2)

FY 2011-18 Long-Range Financial Plan: Director of Finance and Information Technology Diane Hellekson explained that there had been no changes to the plan or basic assumptions since it was last presented to the Board and citizen members of the Budget Committee on March 10, 2010. She said that the payroll tax modeling confirmed the assumption of projected revenue. She noted that a citizen member of the Budget Committee had expressed concerns that the payroll tax growth assumption was unrealistic, and Ms. Hellekson had discussed those concerns and provided assurance that there were several major construction projects in the community that would replace revenue from the University of Oregon basketball arena project once it was finished.

MOTION Mr. Gillespie moved approval of LTD Resolution No. 2010-011: Resolved, that the LTD Board of Directors approves the FY 2011-18 Long-Range Financial Plan as presented. Mr. Dubick provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
 AYES: Dubick, Eyster, Gillespie, Necker, Towery (5)
 NAYS: None
 ABSTENTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: Evans, Kortge (2)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Board Member Reports: Mr. Dubick reported that the Lane Council of Governments was promoting greater collaboration among jurisdictions to solve common problems. There were several subcommittees currently working on issues.

Mr. Eyster reported on efforts to form an Area Commission on Transportation (ACT). He said that Rob Zako had been hired by Lane County to facilitate ACT development activities. He explained that the ACT would make recommendations on the expenditure of federal transportation funds within the County. Director of Planning and Development Tom Schwetz added that the topic currently being discussed was the role of the Lane County Board of Commissioners and the autonomous nature of the ACT. Mr. Viggiano noted that LTD would be represented on the ACT.

Mr. Eyster and Mr. Viggiano reported on their participation in the United Front trip to Washington, D.C., on February 28 through March 4 where they met with members of the congressional delegation and advocated for local issues. He said that Senator Ron Wyden and Congressman Peter DeFazio were amenable to allowing transit districts greater flexibility with using capital funds for operating expenses. The group came away from the meetings with the message that some relief may come but not in time to avoid LTD's projected 20 percent service reduction.

Mr. Gillespie reported on the recent high-speed rail conference that was held at Lane Community College and commended Board member Greg Evans for his efforts in organizing the event. He said that before any funds for high-speed rail could be accessed by the State, an assessment would need to be conducted, and the estimated cost of the assessment was \$20 million. Mr. Gillespie added that the need to connect local transit services to high-speed rail was emphasized at the Conference.

Monthly Financial Report – February 2010: Ms. Hellekson commented that there had been little change since the January report: slow improvement in the economy indicated an end to the recession, and ridership was increasing. She said payroll tax receipts would be evaluated again in early May.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Eyster adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.



Board Secretary

Q:\Reference\Board Packet\2010\06\Reg Meeting 06-16-10\BDMIN_3-17-2010.docx