

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

10 a.m. – Noon

Lane Transit District

3500 East 17th Avenue—Eugene, Oregon

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Necker, Chair
Kay Metzger
Aline Goddard
Bob Procter
Kirstine Sirmans

Kathy Jenness
L. M. Reese
Evan Sloan
Tara Sue Salusso
Dan Haun

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Hugh Massingill Mark Phinney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ann Angvick, Vice Chair
Kay Christopher
Scott Whetham

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Otten
Beth Mulcahey
Mark Phinney
David Braunschweiger
Michael Thomas
Ann Leauver
Dave Kleger
Ed Durkee
Fred Stoffes

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STAFF:

Terry Parker, ~~Lane Transit District Accessible Services Manager~~
~~Andy Vobora, Lane Transit District~~

~~Ken Auguston, Lane Transit District~~

~~Christian Watchie, Lane Transit District Transplan Coordinator (??)~~ Susan Hekimoglu

INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/AGENDA REVIEW:

Mr. Necker called the meeting of the Lane Transit District (LTD) Accessible Transportation Committee (ATC) to order. Those present introduced themselves.

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Ms. Parker announced that Gordon Wyatt, a former member of the ATC committee recently had passed away. Condolences on behalf of the ATC had been sent to the family.

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Mr. Necker reviewed the agenda. The order of agenda item number 7; *Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan* and item number 8; *Program and Project Updates* was switched to accommodate staff schedules.

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MINUTES APPROVAL

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Mr. Reese, seconded by Mr. Proctor, moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 16, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Haun reported that the Membership Committee, consisting of Mr. Necker, Mr. Reese, and himself, recommended the following committee appointments:

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New Appointments:

- Hugh Massengill,
- Mark Phinney, and
- Kay Metzger

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Re-appointments:

- Ann Angvick,
- Bob Proctor,
- Aline Goddard, and
- L.M. Reese

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Community Representative Appointments:

- Michael Thomas,
- Mary Otten,
- and Kathy Jenness

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Mr. Massengill inquired about the appropriateness of the title, Metro User Representative of Elderly, for his appointment. Following a brief discussion, there was consensus to change the category from *Elderly* to *Senior*. In response to a question from Ms. Parker, Mr. Massengill said he felt comfortable representing the senior community.

Mr. Haun stated that the committee was still seeking a person to fill the vacant Rural Paratransit User Representative position.

In response to a query from Ms. Metzger, there was a brief discussion regarding conditions under which ATC members would abstain from voting if a potential or actual conflict of interest existed. Ms. Parker explained that the state Public Transit Division law under which the committee operated. She said declaring a conflict of interest was appropriate and not required for the committee, but allowed the committee to operate in a more transparent open manner but under the rules did not exclude individuals on the committee from participating.

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Ms. Jenness, seconded by Mr. Reese, moved to accept the proposed membership roster as presented by the Accessible Transportation Committee, and forward the proposal to the LTD Board of Directors for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

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Mr. Haun nominated Mr. Necker for Chair, and Mr. Reese for Vice Chair. Mr. Necker opened the floor for nominations. Both Mr. Necker and Mr. Reese expressed their willingness to serve in those positions.

Ms. Salusso, seconded by Mr. Proctor, moved to accept the slate of officers presented by Mr. Haun. The motion passed unanimously.

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Parker announced that she had received a Request for Proposals (RFP) for *The Remote Infrared Audible Signage Model Accessibility Project*, on July 13, 2006. ~~The proposal, that~~ was due July 31, 2006, which did not provide sufficient time to respond to ~~thea~~ complex proposal. She read her response to Mr. Wagley, of the ~~FTA Office of Mobility Department of Transportation Innovation dDepartment~~, expressing her ~~disappointment may~~ in having insufficient time to prepare and submit a competitive proposal. There was a brief discussion about the remote infrared technology.

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SERVICE TO HILYARD COMMUNITY CENTER (HCC) UPDATE

~~Ms. Parker said when LTD made changes to the system that were implemented in the summer; one of those changes was the elimination of a segment of Route 28 that traveled from the downtown Eugene Station to the Hilyard Community Center directly. Route 28 no longer began downtown, but now originated at the University of Oregon Station, traveling out Hilyard and returning to the UO Station. Those people who were making direct connections between the Eugene Station and the Hilyard Community Center (HCC), but who are unable to make transfers at other locations besides the Eugene Station would be either eligible for RideSource to make that trip because the transfer would be too difficult due of their disability or condition, or may need some additional training in order to be able to make that trip possible.~~

~~Ms. Parker said when LTD made changes to the system that were implemented in the summer, one of those changes was elimination of a segment of Route 28 from downtown Eugene to the University of Oregon (UO). Route 28 no longer started downtown, but started at the UO, traveled out Hilyard and returned to the UO. Those people who were making direct connections between the Eugene Station and the Hilyard Community Center (HCC) who were unable to make transfers at another location besides the Eugene Station were either eligible for RideSource to make that trip~~

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~~because the transfer was too difficult or needed to go through some training in order to make that trip possible.~~

Committee members expressed their concerns related to the changes and the impacts on riders.

~~In response to inquiries about being able to use out-of-service trips to get to the U of O from the Eugene Station Ms. Parker explained the challenges in transporting riders on non-scheduled (deadhead) runs. These are, which generally were generally inconsistent throughout the day, and would be difficult for riders to use successfully, and for drivers bus operators to remember exceptions, since those routes operate were outside of the scheduled service parameters.~~

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~~normal operating procedures.~~

~~LTD Marketing and Communications Director, Andy Mr. Vobora concurred with Ms. Parker that transporting riders on the deadhead routes was fraught with problems and service concerns for both the rider and the bus operator, and service concerns for the riders. He offered some history behind the route, and said all of the routes would be reviewed and possibly restructured, with new scheduling in Decembersometime in the future.~~

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~~Mr. Vobora said there was contingency funding that could be allocated to reinstate some of the service, and restoring the service would take approximately one half of the available resources for "system fixes" for this year. Another option was to go back to the LTD Board, and ask for authorization for additional funding outside of the annual route review process. Yet another option was to acknowledge that changes within the system would happen over time, and staff could further evaluate proposed changes and the training that would be needed before making any revisions.~~

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~~Mr. Vobora said that if LTD determined that riders were not able to make the necessary transfers and many riders were shifted to RideSource, staff would evaluate the change to determine if it was the best use of its resources. He said another option might be to engage the help of the Hilyard community CenterCC to use the vehicle that is leased from LTD to provide some additional trips.~~

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~~Mr. Thomas When asked about whether this represented a systematic change in our LTD's fixed-route service operations, Mr. Vobora asserted that the LTD system had always been a hub system, with hubs in downtown Eugene, UO, and downtown Springfield. With the establishment of Bus Plus (service enhancements for some targeted routes) there would be more direct routes. He added that dialogue needed to continue in order to manage the system to address unexpected ripples.~~

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~~Ms. Parker stated that LTD wanted to keep as many people on the fixed-route buses as possible. She emphasized that training was available for riders to learn to use the~~

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~~system more fully by being able to make transfers, and RideSource was available for riders who could not make transfers from bus to bus.~~

~~Mr. Vobora said staff would continue to work on this issue and asked the committee to keep this topic on its future agendas. When asked about how they would like to proceed, the Committee agreed to wait to see how the training and use of RideSource progressed.~~

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~~Mr. Vobora said there was contingency funding that could be allocated to reinstate some services. Another option was to go back to the Board, and ask for authorization for additional funding outside of the annual route review process. Yet another option was to acknowledge that changes within the system would happen over time, and evaluate the changes and training before making any revisions.~~

~~Mr. Vobora said if LTD determined that riders were not able to make the necessary transfers and many riders were shifted to RideSource, LTD would evaluate the change to determine if it was the best use of its resources. He said another option would be to use the HCC vehicle that was purchased with funding from LTD.~~

~~Mr. Vobora asserted that the LTD system had always been a hub system, with hubs in downtown Eugene, UO, and downtown Springfield. With the establishment of Bus Plus, there would be more direct routes. He added the dialogue needed to continue to manage the system to address unexpected ripples.~~

~~Ms. Parker stated that LTD wanted to have as many people on the busses as possible. He emphasized that training was available for riders to learn to use transfers, and RideSource was available for riders who could not use the transfer system.~~

~~Mr. Vobora said staff would continue to work on this issue and asked the committee to keep this on its future agendas.~~

PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATION PLAN

~~Ms. Parker introduced Christian (Chris) Watchie, of TransWatch, who was working on the Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan required by the Federal Transit Administration and the State of Oregon Department of Transportation. Both planning requirements allowed use of the same plan. Ms. Parker said that a core group of people from around the state met recently in Eugene to initiate the development of the Plan. Intense time was spent talking about the human service side of public transportation. In order to get vehicles and other projects funded through state and federal programs, they would need to be listed within the Plan~~

~~Ms. Parker introduced Christian (Chris) Watchie, who was working on the coordinated Public Transit and Human Services Plan required by the Federal Transit Administration and the State of Oregon Department of Transportation. Both planning requirements allowed use of the same plan. Ms. Parker said recently a core group of people from~~

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around the state met in Eugene to initiate the discussion. Intense time was spent talking about the human service of public transportation. The plan would be required to get vehicles and projects funded through state and federal agencies.

Ms. Watchie reported that a variety of agencies, including Lane County Senior and Disabled Services, Lane County Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, State of Oregon DHS, Alternative Work Concepts, and a rider, participated in the meeting.

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Ms. Watchie stated that the preliminary discussion identified the purpose of the Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan as addressing:

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- How to make transportation services more efficient and cost effective;
- How overall system can be more efficient in addressing unmet needs;
- How services be can be designed such that people who need them, particularly low income people, seniors with disabilities, and people with disabilities will understand what is available and can easily access these services.

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In the preliminary discussions, the following unmet needs were identified

- Geographic gaps in services in terms of people needing to get to Eugene from other locations in Lane County.
- Children in foster care and homeless youth.
- Care givers.
- Shift workers.
- Volunteer and mental health transportation.

Ms. Watchie said the next step would be conducting "verification sessions" with case workers to verify that these were issues that they saw within their work with their respective clientele.

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Ms. Watchie said that there would be a project steering committee. She distributed a copy of the Proposed Project Steering Committee and recorded feedback from the ATC for membership on the committee. Ms. Watchie said this committee would serve as a conduit to solicit feedback and provide information to the rest of the community. She added she would report back to the ATC at its next meeting.

PROGRAM AND PROJECT UPDATES

a. **LTD Updates—Insight Workgroup, Japanese Delegation Visit, EMX Update, Notice of Proposed ADA Rulemaking:** Ms. Parker directed ATC members to the written material included in the agenda packet. She said the deadline for comments for the Notice of Proposed ADA Rulemaking was July 28, 2006. She said LTD had submitted comments in April.

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~~Ms. Parker affirmed that LTD did not support the proposed change to move from providing curb-to-curb service to providing door-to-door service because LTD did not believe that this was supported in the original intent of the law. Also, this proposal places an emphasis on paratransit service rather than providing good, accessible fixed-route service for people with disabilities.~~

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b. Program Updates—South Lane Wheels, Oakridge, Florence, RideSource;
Deferred to a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Necker adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

(Recorded by Linda Henry, City of Eugene) Ms. Watchie reported that a variety of agencies, including Lane County Senior and Disabled Services, Lane County Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation, State of Oregon DHS, Alternative Work Concepts, and a rider, participated at the meeting.

Ms. Watchie stated the preliminary discussion identified the purpose of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Plan as being:

- ~~•How can you make transportation services more cost efficient.~~
- ~~•How can the overall system be more efficient in addressing unmet needs;~~
- ~~•Ensure services that were more easily understood and accessed by the people who need them, particularly low income people, seniors with disabilities, and people with disabilities.~~

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In the preliminary discussions, the following unmet needs were identified

- ~~•Geographic gaps in services in terms of people needing to get to Eugene from other locations in Lane County.~~
- ~~•Children in foster care and homeless youth.~~
- ~~•Care givers.~~
- ~~•Shift workers.~~
- ~~•Volunteer and mental health transportation.~~

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Ms. Watchie said the next step would be conducting verification sessions with case workers to verify these were issues for the case workers.

Ms. Watchie said the next step would be establishment of a project steering committee. She distributed a copy of the Proposed Project Steering Committee and recorded feedback from the ATC for membership on the committee. Ms. Watchie said this committee would serve as a conduit to solicit feedback and provide information to the rest of the community. She added she would report back to the ATC at its next meeting.

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PROGRAM AND PROJECT UPDATES

a. ~~LTD Updates—Insight Workgroup, Japanese Delegation Visit, EMX Update, Notice of Proposed ADA Rulemaking.~~

Ms. Parker directed ATC members to the written material included in the agenda packet. She said the deadline for comments for the Notice of Proposed ADA Rulemaking, was July 28, 2006. She said LTD had submitted comments in April 2006. Ms. Parker affirmed that LTD did not support the proposed changes because LTD did not believe that it was not supported in the law.

b. ~~Program Updates—South Lane Wheels, Oakridge, Florence, Ride Source~~

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Deferred to a future meeting.

Mr. Necker adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

-(Recorded by Linda Henry)

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