

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 7, 2006  
10 a.m. – Noon  
Lane Transit District  
3500 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Necker, Chair	Kay Metzger
Jan Aho	Bob Proctor
Ann Angvick	Tara Sue Salusso
Kay Christopher	Evan Sloan
Aline Goddard	Scott Whetham
Hugh Massengill	

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Dave Kleger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

L. M. Reese, Vice Chair	Kristine Sirmans
Mark Phinney	

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Braunschweiger	Beth Mulcahy
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STAFF:

Terry Parker	Susan Hekimoglu
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**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.

Mr. Necker reviewed the agenda. There were no changes suggested.

In response to a concern from Ms. Goddard regarding driving from Oakridge to ATC meetings in inclement weather, Ms. Parker suggested Ms. Goddard could participate via conference call.

Mr. Whetham reported that he recently attended an event at Pearl Buck Center at which Ms. Parker had received the Lisl Waechter Award for her work on behalf of people with disabilities. Ms. Aho added that the Lisl Waechter Award was the highest award presented by Pearl Buck Center. Ms. Waechter founded the Pearl Buck Center in the 1950's.

Mr. Necker expressed the appreciation of the ATC, followed by a round of applause for Ms. Parker.

Ms. Parker said that the ATC members were unsung heroes in the community, adding that the LTD operators also went above and beyond on a daily basis, and the receipt of the award was based on a shared effort.

### **MINUTES APPROVAL – August 15, 2006 and September 19, 2006**

**August 15, 2006:** Ms. Angvick said she was present although the minutes reflected she was absent.

**September 19, 2006:** Ms. Angvick said she was absent although the minutes reflected she was present.

Ms. Christopher offered the following correction:

Page 2, paragraph 5, sentence 3, should read: Ms. Christopher said that often the announcement was occurring ~~so~~ **too late to stop safely.** ~~that the operator already had passed the stop.~~

### **MOTION VOTE**

Mr. Whetham, seconded by Ms. Angvick, moved to approve the August 15, and September 19, 2006, minutes, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REVIEW PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND GUIDING TENETS for the draft Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan for Lane County and for Discretionary Grant Applications**

Ms. Parker reviewed the *Guiding Principles and Funding Priorities* Agenda Item Summary (AIS) as presented on page 12 of the agenda packet:

Ms. Parker reported that every two years, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Public Transit Division, made grants available to public and private non-profit transportation providers from combined multiple sources of federal and state funding on a discretionary basis. To encourage coordination, the Special Transportation Fund Agencies, like LTD, were asked to review and rank local projects. In Lane County, the ATC established the funding priorities and conducted the review of requests for funding from local agencies. Priorities

typically were consistent with those stated in the grant solicitation and funding requirements. In March 2005, the ATC had set the following program priorities for the previous 2005-2007 biennial application process:

**Vehicle Preservation**—Replace vehicles that were operated within a coordinated transportation service network.

**Rural Community Transportation**—Preserve services that provided the most open access and least restrictive environment.

**Fleet Maintenance** through preventive maintenance investments.

**Community Transit**—New vehicles and projects that improved and promoted the use of community transit such as travel training, marketing, and passenger amenities.

Ms. Parker facilitated a discussion about the proposed funding priorities for the current 2007-2009 biennial discretionary grant.

The first priority would maintain existing service levels of viable operations within a coordinated environment, and ensure transportation services and connections remained at their current level for people who depended on public transportation services in Lane County.

In response to a question from Ms. Metzger regarding the stop in front of Hilyard Community Center (HCC), Ms. Parker said when fixed route decisions were made, accessibility, efficiency, resourcefulness, and independence criteria were applied. The HCC stop was not well utilized, and while it provided some accessibility to a particular stop, the same amount of money could provide accessibility and service to more people at other higher-use locations. She concluded it was important to look at the entire system when making service decisions. LTD staff had worked with HCC and Alternate Work Concepts staff to offer training to people who had been impacted by the change. A side benefit of the training was that people learned how to use a greater portion of the transit system by learning how to make transfers. She said the change would be evaluated again in spring 2007.

Ms. Salusso said that when discussing maintaining existing service, the types of service and accessibility rather than each individual stop, was the issue. Thus, maintaining fixed route, RideSource, and the educational system was the goal, utilizing available global resources for the greater good, as the community and its needs changed.

Ms. Christopher said that she thought better information could have been available to riders and drivers with regard to the Hilyard service change. She noted the drivers had received the brunt of complaints by riders.

Mr. Kleger asserted that the leg from the University of Oregon to downtown Eugene was grossly unproductive, but received many complaints from a small proportion of the ridership when it had been removed in the past. He added that costs had driven the decision to change the way the Hilyard Center was served.

In response to Ms. Aho, Ms. Parker said approximately one to two percent of LTD riders had disabilities, acknowledging that many people had hidden disabilities that could not be counted. Ms. Aho added that although a small number of people were served by the HCC stops, that small number of people were completely dependent on public transportation.

Following up on Ms. Parker's comment that it would be important to offer better communications in the future, Mr. Whetham noted when LTD offered group and individual training opportunities to all local agencies, there had been limited response.

Mr. Necker suggested including information on the reader board at the downtown station in addition to sending information to agencies.

Ms. Parker added LTD had records for every easy access card holder that provided information by which riders could have been contacted by mail or telephone. She noted consensus to include language about improving communications with consumers in the *Guiding Principles and Funding Priorities*.

**The second priority was** to respond to growth within existing services and to allow for measured increases where demand points to an unmet need within the current limits of service.

Ms. Parker explained that Rhody Express service had been increased from a six-hour day to an eight-hour day in Florence with new funding. She added that the Florence committee had examined adding Saturday/Sunday service for shopping, but chose to provide increased weekday service between 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to provide service for after school programs for kids. She noted service was expanded within the existing infrastructure.

Ms. Parker added that South Lane Wheels received many requests for life support service between Cottage Grove and Eugene for riders needing more trips for health care services. Ms. Parker added that expanding services to existing providers to meet growing service demands within present boundaries was an efficient use of resources.

The third priority addressed emerging community needs by taking action on opportunities to coordinate and to expand service by developing new partnerships and reacting to newly identified transportation needs and gaps.

Ms. Parker stated that items identified in the gap analysis in The Coordinated Plan, such as serving homeless people, serving homeless youth, and serving Marcola, would be categorized as third priorities. She said resources would not be taken from an existing service that met an identified need. She added that existing services should not be continued if they were not viable. She said the third priority would support projects that were under development that brought in new resources, addressed identified transportation needs in gaps, focused on an underserved group of individuals, improved efficiency and effectiveness to the overall system, provided an added benefit to the transportation services network and riders, and were innovative in their approach in reaching out to new riders or geographic areas.

In response to a question from Ms. Angvick, Ms. Parker said the new Medicaid Medical Brokerage represented an existing service in the community. She offered examples of how additional funding could be requested for new programs.

**MOTION  
VOTE**

Ms. Salusso, seconded by Mr. Massengill, moved that the *Guiding Principles and Funding Priorities* be forwarded to the LTD Board of Directors as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**REVIEW TIMELINE/PROCESS FOR DISCRETIONARY GRANT  
APPLICATIONS**

Ms. Parker reviewed the timeline for the 2007-2009 discretionary grant application, concluding with submission of a consolidated Lane grant application to ODOT in late January.

Ms. Hekimoglu said that at the December ATC meeting, a funding request ranking subcommittee would be appointed to meet in late December to rank the applications. A public hearing on the Lane Coordinated Plan would be held at the December ATC meeting, and the LTD Board would hold the grant application public hearing in January.

## **PROGRAM AND PROJECT UPDATES**

### **a) Lane Transit District—Ms. Parker reported the following:**

- Discretionary Grant Workshop Planned—LTD's Accessible Services Program would host an open house/workshop on Wednesday, December 6, 2006, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the LTD Administration facility as part of the public review of the Lane Coordinated Plan. The workshop would focus on the discretionary grant application.
- EmX Service Start-up Date Announced—The first of five EmX vehicles arrived at LTD on Wednesday, October 24, 2006. ATC members were invited to take a look at the vehicle following today's meeting. Due to the late delivery of the vehicles and the need for operator training time, the EmX service start-up would be delayed until January 14, 2007.
- Volunteer Opportunity—LTD was seeking volunteers to ride along periodically during the EmX training of bus operators in mid- to late December through January 7, 2007.
- Delegation from Israel to visit LTD on November 9—Representatives from the Israeli Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Finance, City of Jerusalem, consultants, and bus operators were scheduled to visit LTD on Thursday, November 9, 2006, as part of a multi-city tour with focuses on new transportation innovations like EmX.
- Insight Focus Workgroup—The workgroup did not meet in October. When the raised line EmX station maps arrive, the workgroup would schedule a field trip to a station to make sure the maps worked well.

### **b) South Lane Wheels – Cottage Grove—Ms. Salusso reported the *Route Around Town* had been doing great, with almost 800 riders during the last month. She said South Lane Wheels was looking at various marketing and communication tools to improve service. In addition, as reported earlier, the Life Sustaining service demand had grown tremendously**

Ms. Parker suggested the relationship between Medicare and payment for dialysis treatment needed to be researched.

### **c) Rhody Express – Florence**

No report.

### **d) Diamond Express – Oakridge**

No report.

**e) RideSource – Eugene / Springfield**

No report.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for December 19, 2006.

Mr. Necker adjourned the meeting at 12:01 pm.

*(Recorded by Linda Henry)*