

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Lane Transit District
3500 East 17th Avenue – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT:

L. M. Reese, Chair, presiding	Mykal Taylor
Ann Angvick, Vice Chair	Bob Proctor
Hugh Massengill	Kristine Sirmans
Jan Aho	Tara Sue Salusso
Aline Goddard	Mary Otten
Kristine Sirmans	

LTD BOARD MEMBER (ex officio)

Ed Necker

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Scott Whethem

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kay Metzger	Mark Phinney
Evan Sloan	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Apparcel	Ann Lauver
David Braunschweiger	Eleanor Mulder
Beth Mulcahey	Gail Lundeen
	Fred Stoffer

STAFF:

Terry Parker	Rand Stamm
Susan Hekimoglu	

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Reese called the Accessible Transportation Committee (ACT) meeting to order and those present introduced themselves.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There were no comments

LTD FALL TRAINING PRESENTATION

Ms. Hekimoglu and Ms. Parker gave an overview of the Fall Training presentation, and Ms. Parker commented that 2.5 hours were dedicated to diversity and accessible services. A series of videos were developed for the training sessions and were shown at the meeting titled "What it Takes" and "Just Like You". The videos highlighted three disabled riders who shared their experiences. The training sessions and videos were presented to all LTD bus operators and staff.

Ms. Aho noted that the videos positively reflected LTD's commitment to providing accessible services to the community.

Ms. Parker added that LTD was looking to find other places to present the videos.

DISCRETIONARY GRANT PROCESS UPDATE

Ms. Parker gave an update on the Discretionary Grant Process and referred to a spreadsheet titled: ODOT Discretionary Grant Program Summary for Lane County which detailed project funds for the program.

Ms. Parker pointed out that the following considerations went into the preparation of the spreadsheet:

- Replacement vehicles would be based on current and annual miles, vehicle condition, and use in coordinated service.
- Waivered non-medical service for the South Lane area required an additional match to meet the demand in FY2009.
- The expansion of waivered non-medical services to Florence & Oakridge was possible under the new contract agreement with the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- Vehicle preventive maintenance amounts can be based on actual costs and did not have to have a per-vehicle limit as in the past.
- Florence Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) service demand is unknown and in-person assessments for eligibility under ADA conducted by S&DS began in July 2008.

In response to Mr. Necker's question on the expansion of waivered non-medical services, Ms. Parker confirmed that Medicaid still paid half of the allocated costs and that case managers were still required to authorize services as part of an individual's case plan.

EMX FARE COLLECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

LTD Information Technology Manager Steve Parrott presented an update on the fare collection program for EmX service. He noted that the program was slated to begin with the implementation of the Pioneer Parkway EmX service in 2010.

Mr. Parrott said two methods for collecting fares had been considered, and LTD had selected a platform fare collection system to help avoid congestion on the buses. He added that a machine would be installed on the platform at EmX stations to collect the fare and described the machine that was being considered. Although specific design elements were still to be determined, Mr. Parrott said the machines would be similar to those used to collect fares in parking lots. The first set of machines would be installed in the summer of 2009.

Ms. Otten asked if the machines would be located in a standard place on the platforms for continuity. Mr. Parrott responded that LTD would try to be as consistent as possible, but noted that some of the platforms had different variances that would prevent standardization.

Mr. Massengill asked if the fare collection machines were being considered for both the EmX and the fixed-route systems. Mr. Parrott responded that the plan was to install the machines for EmX only due to the significant cost, but that fare collection machines could be considered for the fixed-route systems in the future.

Several members had ideas for modifying the machines to help make them more ADA accessible. In response to the many suggestions, Mr. Parrott said that the machine features were still being discussed, and that LTD would make every effort to make them as ADA accessible as possible. He also added that the fare collection machine's capabilities were limited and reminded members that the machines were ideally for those riders who do not use the EmX system on a regular basis, as typically, regular riders already had a pre-paid fare, either via a monthly pass or by having transferred from the fixed-route to the EmX system.

PIONEER PARKWAY EMX/GATEWAY STATION UPDATE

Ms. Parker reported that the Pioneer Parkway EmX extension was almost complete and that any feedback regarding the design and safety of the roundabout should be given to the City of Springfield before the project is completed.

Referring to the Gateway Station, Ms. Parker reported that the construction would cease during the holiday season and start up again after the beginning of the new year.

MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Ms. Parker introduced Michelle Apparcel, Transportation Coordinator for Senior and Disabled Services (S&DS). Ms. Parker noted that Ms. Apparcel was a part of the Mobility Management team at S&DS that would be conducting transportation assessments for human services transportation in Lane County.

Ms. Parker reported that the Mobility Management Team recently attended the Oregon Transit Association conference in Seaside, Oregon. Members had the opportunity to attend several ADA training sessions where topics included conditional eligibility and strengthening in-person assessments.

Ms. Apparcel talked about her past experience working with Department of Human Services as a Self Sufficiency Case Manager and with Lane County Victims Impact panel where she worked in the public transportation field.

In response to Ms. Salusso's question, Ms. Apparcel said that her department is in the process of implementing timelines and determining what service areas they will start with.

Ms. Angvick offered to her assistance to Ms. Apparcel if she had any questions regarding persons who experienced brain injuries.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Lane Transit District - Ms. Parker reported that LTD staff currently were working on the fall 2009 Service Reduction Package and more information regarding the budget would be

known soon. She added that bad economic conditions and the loss of jobs in the community could result in deeper cuts to LTD.

Referring to the system re-design, Mr. Necker said that several sub-district outreach meetings and two public hearings had been held, and the Board would make its decision next week.

South Lane Wheels/Cottage Grove - Ms. Salusso reported that South Lane Wheels was currently in the middle of an annual campaign and if the \$30,000 goal was reached, an additional \$15,000 could be awarded via a challenge grant.

Ms. Salusso said that staff would review the budget mid-year to make any needed adjustments. She added that despite a dismal economy, demand for services continued to increase.

Rhody Express/Florence - Ms. Sirmans reported that ridership for the Rhody Express continued to be steady and they had received more participation from the school district due to a training program for students learning life skills.

Diamond Express/Oakridge - Ms. Goddard reported that the Diamond Express was experiencing a rise in the demand for the service, and was pleased that people were taking advantage of the services offered.

RideSource/Eugene, Springfield - Mr. Braunschweiger reported that demand for RideSource by both the general public and people accessing the service through Medicaid agencies continued to go up and he noted that they have experienced several record breaking weeks.

RideSource Call Center - Mr. Stamm reported that the call center was very busy with 560+ Medicaid calls per day. He added that staff currently were ironing out challenging details regarding the new on-line Oregon Medicaid Management Information system (MMIS) to help make the transition to the new system as smooth as possible.

Next Meeting

Mr. Reese adjourned the meeting and noted that the next meeting was scheduled for December 16, 2008.

(Recorded by Jo Schutte)