

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 20, 2010
10 a.m. – Noon
Lane Transit District
3500 East 17th Avenue – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT:

L. M. Reese, Chair, presiding	Bob Proctor
Hugh Massengill, Vice Chair	Annie Saville
Ann Angvick	Mark Phinney
Eleanor Mulder	Gail Lundeen
Aline Goddard	Scott Whetham
Kay Metzger	

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Bill Morganti

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kris Lyon	Eva Pfeiffer
David Braunschweiger	Fred Stoffer
Irene Ferguson	Janice Friend

STAFF:

Susan Hekimoglu	Rand Stamm
Terry Parker	

I. Call To Order

Mr. Reese called the meeting of Lane Transit District's Accessible Transportation Committee (ATC) to order.

II. Introductions, Announcements and Agenda Review

Those present introduced themselves.

Ms. Goddard invited the committee to the Oakridge Tree Festival occurring April 29 through May 3.

Mr. Reese called for additions to the agenda. He added an item regarding the appointment of a third ATC member to the Membership Committee as item VI.

III. Audience Participation

Mr. Reese invited audience participation. There was no one present wishing to speak.

IV. Action: Minutes Approval, March 16, 2010

Mr. Massengill, seconded by Ms. Mulder, moved to approve the minutes of March 16, 2010, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. STF Budget and Grant Updates

Ms. Parker called the committee's attention to the distributed memorandum entitled *Special Transportation Fund Budget in FY10 and FY11*. She reviewed the memorandum, which included background information regarding the role of Lane Transit District (LTD) as the regional coordinator of transportation services and program funding. She said the focus of the item was allocation of the Special Transportation Fund (STF) in-district and out-of-district money. She reviewed a list of services now being supported by STF resources. Services being funded included:

RideSource
RideSource Shopper
RideSource Escort
Pearl Buck Preschool
Senior & Disabled Services Community Transportation
DD Service Transportation
Mental Health Transportation
Transit Training and Hosts
Rural Community Transportation
LTD Accessible Service

Ms. Parker reviewed a document entitled *Special Transportation Fund—Out of District Revenue Summary*. She acknowledged a mistake in the document, correcting the reference to December 30, 2010, to be December 30, 2009. She confirmed, in response to a question from Ms. Metzger, that the STF funds could be carried forward to future years. In addition, LTD could designate a reserve or contingency. She emphasized the flexibility of the funding and observed that even though it came from the State, the STF funds were considered local money.

Ms. Parker reviewed a document entitled *Special Transportation Fund—Budget Summary for FY2010 and FY2011*. She asked the ATC to make a recommendation in regard to the third column in the document, which reflected the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 budget. She explained the differences between the allocations for the current year budget for in-district services as contrasted to the proposed budget where the difference was significant. She noted the increase in the STF budget allocation for in-district services from a FY2010 revised estimate amount of \$338,937 to \$470,329 for FY2011.

Responding to questions from Ms. Lundeen clarifying the amounts involved, Ms. Parker emphasized that the document was not a balance sheet and figures would not necessarily match up due to the way money moved in and out of the program.

Responding to a question from Ms. Mulder, Ms. Parker said the STF funds could be used for the DD Services (Lane County Developmental Disabilities Services) Transportation match, but LTD had another source of funding for that expenditure and preferred to retain the more flexible STF funding for other purposes.

Ms. Parker continued her review of the document, noting the allocations for STF Out-of-District services and calling attention to the increase from the FY2010 revised estimate amount of \$60,665 to a proposed \$76,716 for FY2011. Members asked questions clarifying the information presented.

Ms. Parker reviewed a document also entitled *Special Transportation Fund—Budget Summary for FY2010 and FY2011*, which provided both a summary of revenues for Metro Service and a summary of total program expenditures and the differentials between the FY2010 revised estimate and FY2011 proposed budget.

Responding to a question from Ms. Mulder, Ms. Parker attributed the difference in the budget to additional funding provided through state and federal sources. Transit advocates had been effective in getting additional funding through the State Legislature to fund special transportation. It was uncertain as to whether the new level of State funding would be sustained, and Ms. Parker suggested that it would depend on overall economic recovery. She did not think any more federal funding was forthcoming. She said that while FY2011 looked good, the next two years following held many unknowns.

Ms. Mulder noted some upcoming public meetings being held by the Oregon Department of Transportation in regard to high-speed rail. She suggested that the local meeting would be an opportunity for residents to let the State know how they felt about the State's budget priorities and to signify local support for high-speed rail.

Mr. Stouffer noted that there were no Medicaid moneys included in the document. Ms. Parker concurred. She also noted the efforts made by Special Mobility Services to reduce costs, including asking employees to take on more of the costs of their medical benefits and an administrative wage freeze. She thanked Mr. Stouffer and his employees for that contribution.

Mr. Massengill asked where the money went when received. Ms. Parker said that much of the money does not arrive until after it was spent. The State STF allocations arrived quarterly and LTD applied the funding to all programs and charged against the money most of the year. Other dollars were available on a reimbursable basis, and LTD had to apply for the money after it spent it. LTD needed to have enough money in its General Fund to pay the bills and then had to seek reimbursement from other funds. She noted that the 5311 program did not allow LTD to spend ahead.

Ms. Metzger asked if the increase in Metro Services reflected an increase in demand. Ms. Parker said yes, LTD saw an increase in both demand and cost. She pointed out that otherwise, the funding would come from the General Fund.

Ms. Lundeen, seconded by Mr. Phinney, moved that the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee accept the STF funding recommendation and forward a recommendation of approval to the Lane Transit District Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously; with Mr. Whetham and Ms. Goddard abstaining from the vote as providers of service.

VI. Appointment to Membership Subcommittee

Mr. Reese solicited a volunteer to serve on the Membership Subcommittee, which experienced a vacancy when Tara Salusso left the committee. Other members of the Subcommittee were Bob Proctor and Hugh Massengill. Ms. Hekimoglu described the duties of the subcommittee, which were to review the Bylaws and determine how to fill current and anticipated vacancies. She anticipated that the ATC would have vacancies soon and indicated she was in the midst of a recruitment process.

Mr. Phinney volunteered to serve on the Membership Committee.

VII. RideSource Request for Service and Boundary Review

Ms. Parker recalled the committee's March discussion of the issue. She referred the ATC to the agenda item summary, which described the status quo, LTD's research into what other agencies did, and a request from a family living outside the boundary who requested service. She recalled the ATC's recommendation for a fee for service model and reviewed the proposal she had subsequently fashioned in response. The proposal called for a fee for service approach in addition to the standard \$3 RideSource fare for rides that began or ended outside the boundary that were no longer than ten minutes from the nearest street location within the boundary. She anticipated the rate would be \$4 for each fee-for-service trip. Ms. Parker proposed a two-year demonstration project to determine the feasibility of the approach. She described how ticketing for the service would work.

Mr. Whetham determined from Ms. Parker that no show policies would remain the same.

Ms. Metzger commended LTD for considering making the change, given there was nothing to compel it to do so. She felt that Ms. Parker came up with a reasonable proposal that accommodated a specific situation and supported the pilot concept. She encouraged Ms. Parker to seek board approval. Ms. Saville concurred, and determined from Ms. Parker that the family in question had been notified of the proposal.

Mr. Proctor suggested that LTD might not want to advertise that the service was available outside the service boundary. Ms. Parker agreed. She said she was not going to promote the availability of RideSource rides to people living outside the boundary. She pointed out that if the program could go away after the pilot test. She characterized the change as an internal policy shift designed to address such cases as the family previously mentioned, and believed it left LTD with negotiating power.

Mr. Stoffer determined from Ms. Parker that the house being served needed to be within ten minutes of the boundary. Ms. Saville determined from Ms. Parker that the RideSource vehicle could travel up the road in question. LTD could not get to the location in inclement weather involving ice or snow. Ms. Angvick asked if that was captured in the parameters of the proposal. Ms. Parker said LTD would apply the RideSource rules that currently existed.

VIII. Program Updates

a. ATC Chair's Report

Mr. Reese hoped to visit South Lane Wheels in Cottage Grove before the end of June.

b. Lane Transit District

Ms. Hekimoglu noted the update included in the packet on pages 10-11. Ms. Parker highlighted the fact that there now was a full team to do eligibility assessments, the fact the whole county was covered, and assessments were done for any one who received service through the Call Center.

c. RideSource Call Center

Ms. Lyons said staff were beginning to address the backlog of transportation assessments for Medicaid eligible riders. She said the Call Center continued to be very busy.

d. RideSource ADA Paratransit Service

Mr. Braunschweiger reported that the service had been busy. Things were going smoothly. He noted that March 2010 was the largest ridership month to date. Activity had picked up since

December and rides were averaging over 3,000 a week. The service had more than 1,000 passengers two months in a row. He attributed the increase to a growth in qualified riders.

e. South Lane County

Ms. Pfeifer reported that South Lane staff continued to reorganize and were quite busy. The board of directors was involved and active and was recruiting for the executive director position, which closed May 14. She hoped a new director was hired by the end of May. She commended the staff and drivers.

f. West Lane County

Ms. Sirmans was not present to report.

g. East Lane County

Ms. Goddard noted that in general the service had been busy, but had been affected by cancellations. Diamond Express was very busy, with an 87-passenger day reported recently.

h. Whitebird Clinic

There was no report.

i. Other

Ms. Parker announced the upcoming ODOT High-Speed Rail Open House on May 18 at the Campbell Senior Center.

Mr. Proctor announced a Department of Human Services-sponsored Community Forum on May 12 at the Lane Community College from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for discussion of the new Oregon Health Authority.

Mr. Reese thanked RideSource for waiting for him late at night at the train depot.

The next meeting was scheduled for June.

Mr. Reese adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

(Recorded by Kimberly Young)