

MINUTES OF MEETING
ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
10 a.m. - Noon
Next Stop Center - Eugene Station

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Barron, Chair	Annie Saville, Vice Chair
Bill Morganti	Stefan Kwiatkowski
Rachel Jacobsen	Reneé Van Norman
Ruth Linoz	Aline Goddard
Paul Blaylock	Eleanor Mulder

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Hoover Chambliss	April Georgi
Beth Mulcahy	Laurie Morris
Dennis Turner	April Georgi
Dave Sedgwick	

STAFF:

Susan Hekimoglu	Cosette Rees
Debby Bonds, captioner	Ellen Currier
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder	

I. Call to Order

Mr. Barron called the meeting of the Accessible Transportation Committee (ATC) to order.

II. Introductions, Announcements, Agenda Review

Those present introduced themselves. There were no changes to the agenda.

III. Audience Participation

There was no one wishing to speak.

IV. Minutes Approval: June 16, 2015

MOTION: Mr. Morganti, seconded by Mr. Kwiatkowski, moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 10:0.

V. Membership and Bylaws Review

Ms. Hekimoglu said membership recruitment had been conducted through notices in "*Bus Talk*," posters on buses and articles in *The Register-Guard*. She said some people had expressed interest and were added to the mailing list. One application was received from Janet Fitzpatrick, who was interested in the position representing older adults, but that position would not be vacant until 2018. Ms. Fitzpatrick had been added to the proposed committee roster as a community representative. Ms. Mulder's term in the at-large position was expiring and she had expressed interest in being reappointed.

Ms. Hekimoglu said the metro provider position was vacant following Misty Brazell's resignation in June and she would be seeking a replacement. She briefly reviewed the Draft Membership Roster included in the agenda packet and noted that Mr. Kwiatkowski, Ms. Van Norman, Mr. Whetham and

Ms. Mulder were recommended for reappointment to their positions and Ms. Fitzpatrick was recommended for appointment as a community representative.

MOTION: Mr. Kwiatkowski, seconded by Mr. Morganti, moved to accept the Draft Membership Roster as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 10:0.

Ms. Hekimoglu highlighted revisions to the Bylaws, which included updated language and recommendations from the previous committee meeting. Those included:

- Terms of ATC members would begin in September instead of July
- Chairs of ATC subcommittees would be selected by members of those subcommittees, rather than being appointed by the ATC Chair
- Vacant (unfilled) positions would not count towards a quorum

MOTION: Mr. Morganti, seconded by Ms. Van Norman, moved to approve the Draft 2015-2015 Revision to the ATC Bylaws as submitted. The motion passed unanimously, 10:0.

VI. Election of Officers

Ms. Hekimoglu said both Mr. Barron and Ms. Saville had indicated they were willing to serve another term as chair and vice chair respectively, unless other members were interested in serving.

MOTION: Mr. Morganti, seconded by Mr. Kwiatkowski, moved to elect Mr. Barron as Chair and Ms. Seville as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously, 10:0.

VII. Oakridge Transportation Services Update

Ms. Rees discussed proposals for service changes that Lane Transit District (LTD) had presented to the City of Oakridge. She said Oakridge was also willing to seek funding opportunities to increase service to the area.

Ms. Rees said the Diamond Express was funded with 5311 Intercity funds and some changes were necessary in order to meet the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) expectation that meaningful connections with other transportation was made. LTD staff was working with both Amtrak and Greyhound to connect via the Diamond Express from Eugene to Oakridge. A map that illustrated the proposed connections was distributed. She said the new connections would also help promote the expansion of mountain bike tourism around Oakridge. Surveys conducted in the Oakridge area had indicated an interest in penetrating farther into Westfir. She said that extension would be offered on the first inbound trip and the last outbound trip to test the market.

Regarding Dial-a-Ride, Ms. Rees said the meals-on-wheels service that had previously been provided by Special Mobility Services was discontinued on July because that use of public transit funded vehicle was not permissible because the vehicle was intended to carry people, not food. She said Senior and Disabled Services was now using volunteers to deliver meals in the community. Dial-a-Ride was still available to deliver people to meal sites. She said riders paid a nominal fare of \$1.00.

Ms. Rees said that non-emergency medical transportation through Medicaid could be provided with public transit funded vehicles only as an incidental service, not as the primary use of a vehicle. As of September 1, those trips had been moved to private providers and a large number of the public transit funded vehicles in service in Oakridge would be retired in the metro area.

Ms. Goddard remarked that seven people had lost their jobs as a result of moving the service to private providers. She asked if there were other vehicles that could be used in Oakridge to provide that service.

Ms. Linoz said South Lane Wheels had both types of vehicles to provide service. She said it was an issue of what percentage each type of service represented in a vehicle's use. In her situation, vehicles could be used for medical transport because of the high percentage of public transit use for those vehicles. She observed that the restrictions on vehicle use by funding sources often did not reflect the reality of community needs.

Ms. Rees agreed that it was challenging to meet community needs while working with the requirements imposed by the funding sources used to purchase vehicles.

Ms. Hekimoglu said LTD had proposed a schedule to the Oakridge City Council and was awaiting a response. She estimated that new service might be implemented around the beginning of November 2015.

Ms. Goddard asked to have drivers review the proposed schedule to assure there was adequate time for fueling vehicles.

VIII. *Moving Ahead Initiative Update*

Ms. Currier said that open houses to review design options for seven transit corridors were held throughout the metro area in May 2015. She would provide materials from those events to ATC members. Options, which included an enhanced corridor, EmX corridor or no change, were also presented at various community events and input from the public was collected throughout the summer, continuing through September. She said comments on designs could also be provided on the Moving Ahead website. In the next step, the Eugene City Council and LTD Board of Directors would make recommendations on four corridors to move forward to the next stage of the study. She said the Moving Ahead Sounding Board had made a recommendation on four corridors and that recommendation was also reflected in the feedback that came from the public. The four corridors recommended to move forward were Highway 99, River Road, Coburg Road and Amazon Parkway/30th Avenue.

In response to a question from Ms. Linoz, Ms. Currier said the seven corridors had been identified through regional planning efforts as high priority transportation corridors. Mr. Barron added that input from residents along the corridors also helped identify issues and needs and projected population growth was also a factor. He said corridor enhancements would be multi-modal and not limited to transit options.

IX. Program Updates

a. **Lane Transit District**—Ms. Rees said LTD's new VoIP (voice over IP) phone system for customer service has been implemented for customer service. The new system was intended to reduce hold times and provide better self-service. She said the system was still being debugged and asked for feedback from ATC members as the system was fine tuned.

Mr. Barron suggested that committee members call in on the new system and then provide staff with feedback on their experiences.

Ms. Rees said the Oregon Transportation Conference, sponsored by the Oregon Transportation Commission, would be held in Eugene on October 18-21, 2015. She said ODOT's Public Transit Advisory Committee, of which she was a member, would be meeting during the conference. Ms. Hekimoglu said she would provide ATC members with information about the conference.

Ms. Rees announced that the state planned to issue a solicitation for projects for an additional \$6 million in Surface Transportation Program funds. She said Region 2 would receive about \$2 million

for projects and an additional \$2 million was available statewide for innovative projects with statewide significance. The ATC would be involved in reviewing and making recommendations on proposals.

In response to a question from Mr. Chambliss, Ms. Rees said the VoIP system covered both LTD and RideSource, as did the LTD website.

Mr. Chambliss said he was very impressed with the website and access to real-time information it provided. Ms. Rees said LTD was working on a mobile-friendly version.

Ms. Jacobsen asked for a demonstration of the new website and real-time information at the next ATC meeting.

b. RideSource Call Center Steering Committee—No report.

c. RideSource Call Center—Mr. Sedgwick said the new phone system was performing well. He said eight new vehicles had recently been received from Portland and he had recently filled the driver supervisor vacancy. The Call Center facility remodel was completed and the additional space and improved configuration was appreciated.

d. RideSource ADA Paratransit— Mr. Sedgwick announced that a paratransit rodeo would be held at Valley River Center. This was the first time this event would be held in Oregon.

e. South Lane Wheels—Ms. Linoz was pleased to announce the new vehicle had a 1,000-pound lift.

There was a discussion of vehicle ramps and safety equipment and what was needed to accommodate wheelchairs and assure safe transport.

f. Florence Rhody Express—Ms. Hekimoglu said Florence's Transit Advisory Committee was focused on marketing. Service was running well and ridership was steady.

g. Oakridge/Diamond Express—Ms. Goddard said due to layoffs she now had only three Diamond Express drivers and one of those was retiring in October. She said staff was preparing for the changes planned for Diamond Express in the coming months. She said there was a fire on the 35-person bus in downtown Eugene, although only the driver was onboard at the time. Alternative vehicles were sent to serve the route.

h. White Bird Clinic—Ms. Georgi said White Bird was in discussions with Trillium about an updated crisis services community center. She said a two-year renewal application for Special Transportation Fund (STF) services was being developed. She would be able to provide more details on the program and participation rates at the next meeting.

i. Alternative Work Concepts—No report.

j. Lane Council of Governments Senior & Disability Services—Ms. Jacobsen said the budget for the new biennium was now in place and consequently some cutbacks to the Oregon Project Independence were necessary. She said the program provided in-home services on a sliding scale fee, such as personal care and home care. Notices of the cutbacks were being mailed to clients. She said the program had existed for a long time and was funded by the legislature; the funding level varied from year to year.

Ms. Jacobsen said the Oregon Independence Project served many people with a service priority level scale, which was based on their ability to perform the activities of daily living; income was also an eligibility factor. It was a very popular program. As a result of budget constraints, the program was now closed for seniors, but adults with disabilities would still be accepted. She explained some of the other options for services that would still be available. She said some staff positions had been cut and the program was being modified to assure there were enough resources to provide services to those with the highest need.

Ms. Jacobsen said the Oakridge senior meals program had been restructured and an assistant senior meals manager had been hired to work specifically with rural areas. She said new case managers had been hired in the Florence office and staff was conducting outreach.

Ms. Jacobsen said a new five-year area plan was being developed and a needs assessment was being conducted to help focus funds for older adults and those with disabilities. The assessment would include focus groups and surveys. She introduced Laurie Morris, one of four new interns who would be providing in-home depression counseling in the greater metro area, Veneta and Junction City.

k. LILA—No report.

l. Other—Mr. Barron observed that the October 20, 2015, ATC meeting would occur in the middle of the Oregon Transportation Conference. He suggested changing the meeting date.

Ms. Hekimoglu would poll ATC members via email about availability on October 13 or 27.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.