

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

10 am – Noon

Next Stop Center – Eugene Station
1099 Olive Street – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annie Saville, Vice Chair, Presiding	
Ruth Linoz	Bill Morganti
Paul Blaylock	Eleanor Mulder
Aline Goddard	Josh Haring
Tim Shearer	Rachel Jacobsen
Scott Whetham	Stefan Kwiatkowski
Hoover Chamblis	Ed Necker, LTD Board, ex officio

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Pete Barron, Chair	Renee' Van Norman
Vacant – Metro Provider	Vacant – Rural Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Salish Davis, White Bird Clinic
April Wick, Full Access

STAFF:

Susan Hekimoglu, LTD	Cosette Rees, LTD
Kris Lyon, LTD	Zach Fish, LTD
Meg Kester, LTD	Tim Simon, LTD
Beth Mulcahy, SMS	David Braunschweiger, SMS
Richard Belcher, SMS	Janice Friend, captioner

I. Call to order

Ms. Saville called the meeting of the Accessible Transportation Committee (ATC) to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Introductions, Announcements, Agenda Review

Those present introduced themselves. Ms. Hekimoglu announced that ATC member Gail Lundeen had resigned from the committee due to health reasons. Ms. Hekimoglu distributed a card for all members to sign that would be sent to Ms. Lundeen to thank her for her service and wish her well.

III. Audience Participation

Bill Morganti, Committee member, commented that it would be nice if people who had the Honored Rider Pass (65+ ride free), could use the pass at other transit agencies around the state, such as Tri-Met in Portland, Salem area Transit, Medford, and Bend, and that people from those agencies could use their passes here. Mr. Kwiatkowski said that the Bend transit agency did not offer free fares to older adults. Mr. Haring mentioned that it would be a problem when the various transit agencies around the state did not employ the same policies for rider fares.

Ms. Wick introduced herself as the new executive director for Full Access, a brokerage for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She was visiting various agencies to introduce herself. She said she started at Full Access approximately five weeks prior. She and her husband moved to Eugene from Berkeley, California. She distributed her business card and said that she was very interested in collaborating with the staff at LTD and the Accessible Transportation Committee to create ways to better serve clients of Full Access to ensure that anyone who wanted to ride the bus could do so.

Ms. Saville noted the arrival of several visitors from Salem-Kaizer Transit, Charriots, who were attending the LTD meeting to learn more about the functions of the Accessible Transportation Committee.

IV. ACTION: Minutes Approval December 15th, 2015

MOTION: Mr. Morganti moved, seconded by Mr. Kwiatkowski, to approve the December 15th minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Meet LTD's New General Manager – Aurora "A.J." Jackson

Ms. Jackson introduced herself as the new General Manager and thanked the audience for the welcome. She discussed her objectives for her first few months as LTD's General Manager. She said that she was excited to really learn about how LTD serves our community; where we are doing a great job; where we could improve; and where we could collaborate with some of our resources, such as the members of this committee.

VI. 2016 Special Transportation Fund Discretionary Program

Ms. Rees thanked the attendees and stated that a quorum was necessary to vote on the STF funds. She said the goal of the meeting was to develop a ranked prioritization of projects. The STF was available for projects designed to help individuals with disabilities and older adults, and was an out-of-cycle allotment rather than a formula allocation. She explained that LTD was competing for \$2 million total of formula allocation funds within the Oregon Department of Transportation, Rail and Public Transit Division's Region 2, which was quite large and included

Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia Counties; and that there was an additional \$2 million for projects of statewide significance. The three proposals included the development of a pilot program to improve transportation for dialysis patients; volunteer scheduling consolidation and coordination; and the improvement of the LTD half-fare and service animal programs. She reiterated that budgets were still being revised, so those numbers could change, but what staff were asking from the Committee was to rank the actual projects in priority order.

Dialysis Transportation - Ms. Lyon discussed the dialysis transport pilot program and compared its similarities to a Portland program. She said that delayed, shortened, or missed dialysis appointments lessened an individual's lifespan, added additional stress, and reduced patient quality-of-life. She added that there was a great deal of support from providers in the County and that there were over 300 people on dialysis in Lane County with a long waiting list. A new clinic was being planned which was projected to increase demand. The pilot project would start in Eugene and Springfield for 6 months and would extend by 5 mile increments to the surrounding area over the following 3 years. The STF would pay for patient transportation; vehicle procurement for outlying areas; volunteer recruitment; and a service quality survey of physicians, social workers, and clients. Ms. Lyon concluded by explaining the 5 stages of the pilot project and opened the discussion to comments and questions from the members and audience.

In response to a question from the audience, Ms. Lyon stated that dialysis clinics typically did not provide funding or resources for transportation and that the only state to do so was Florida.

Ms. Lyon added that the project would benefit people throughout the County as many people traveled to obtain dialysis services from other locations. Ms. Linoz noted that travel from rural areas in a weakened state was problematic and that she would like to see attendant care as a component of the program, Ms. Lyon said that the goal was provide an all-around solid support system. Mr. Haring added that his organization transported many patients with limited or no access to transportation but had found that many people were driving themselves. There was a discussion of eligibility, education at care facilities, and outreach. Ms. Lyon added to a question from Mr. Chamblis that patients could spend upwards of 7 hours daily in the dialysis process. Ms. Linoz asked if the success of the second proposal for volunteer coordination was critical for the success of the dialysis proposal to which Ms. Lyon replied that it was an important component but not critical. Ms. Rees mentioned a Portland grant called 'ride connection' which could potentially fill funding gaps. Say discussed potentially utilizing White Bird since many times people express anxiety over taking public transport. Ms. Mulcahy asked how many rides would be coordinated or provided by volunteers to which Ms. Lyon replied that the District was looking at 3,900 round trips. Ms. Rees emphasized that they

wanted to make sure it was a sustainable program but added it could be modified. Ms. Linoz asked how much of this was funded through community health care reform funding and how much was driven by transportation funds to which Ms. Lyon said that the funding was entirely from transportation funds but that federal access to health care was also a component.

Lane County Volunteer Coordination – Ms. Lyon explained the second proposal and said that the District worked with volunteers on 14 different programs including escort services, medical services, reimbursement for senior companion programs, Department of Human Services specifically with Medicaid. She said that currently all of the volunteers were managed by the individual programs and that the District was proposing to implement a coordinated effort. Ms. Lyon explained that marketing and recruitment were very time consuming, and no program had enough funding for these critical efforts. She added that background checks and training often were too expensive. She said that the proposal would also increase the funding level for reimbursement for programs which were not being reimbursed at the federal level, but rather at a lower level of \$0.40½. The proposal also included funding for paid drivers when volunteer drivers were not available. Ms. Linoz said that she would like to see paid attendants as well. Ms. Lyon discussed the reimbursement rates for 60 volunteers and 58,000 miles each year and said that they would increase by 13 cents. Ms. Rees and Ms. Lyon discussed the need to increase capacity and the importance of centralizing recruitment so as not to compete for volunteers. There was a discussion of liability.

LTD Fixed-Route Half-Fare Program / Service Animal Pilot Program – Ms. Hekimoglu discussed the fixed-route half-fare and service animal pilot program including the history and state of the program. She said that there were over 30,000 people in the program and discussed the people who would qualify under the new program and the changes proposed. In addition to updating the eligibility database, increasing the expiration date and picture size on the cards, there would be an option to voluntarily register service animals and have a paw print on the pass. Ms. Hekimoglu said that regardless of the STF allocation, the District would move forward with this project, hold eligibility interviews and that eligibility would expand to include people on SSI and SSD as well as veterans with 50% disability. Ms. Rees emphasized that the District would implement the changes anyway but that the STF funding would allow the project to occur in one year versus three.

ACTION: Ms. Seville motioned and Mr. Kwiatkowski seconded, to rank #1 as the 1st priority, #2 as the 2nd priority, and #3 as the 3rd priority.

PROPOSED MOTION: Move that the ATC rank the three proposed projects as follows and direct staff to submit application to ODOT.:

Highest Priority Project **Dialysis Transportation**

Second Priority Project: **Lane County Volunteer Coordination**

Third Priority Project: **LTD Fixed-Route Half-Fare Program / Service Animal Pilot Program**

The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Whetham abstaining.

VII. Annual Route Review Update

Mr. Simon discussed the annual route review. He said that the District was conducting a lot of public outreach and that there would be a survey and a public hearing held at the library on March 16th where the public could provide more input. The project would then return to the Board in April and the District staff would seek Board approval.

Mr. Simon discussed the proposed route frequency and location changes. Route 12 would be moved to downtown and Route 1 would be expanded. Routes 11 and EmX would increase in frequency to every 15 minutes on Sunday. Routes 51 and 52 would run at 15 minute intervals daily. Routes 66 and 67 would run at 15 minute intervals daily on the periphery of the Cal Young neighborhood and would bisect it. Route 96 would increase in frequency and a mid-day and evening trip would be added. He clarified that the District didn't have enough budget to implement all of the proposed route changes but that they could remain as future options. Route 93 would add Sunday service and two trips. Route 33 would become bidirectional and extend into the Woodfield Shopping Center and Amazon Station. Route 40 would be a loop route into downtown. The EmX would move to Pearl Street which would increase service to Amtrak and would add run times on weekend evenings. Ms. Linoz asked how RideSource would be impacted and if cost was a consideration in the proposed changes to which Mr. Simon replied that the CFO did consider costs. There was a discussion of the new airport service and Holiday service.

VIII. Program Updates

- a) Lane Transit District – Ms. Rees had no updates.
- b) RideSource Call Center Advisory Committee and ADA paratransit – Ms. Lyon said that the center meeting would be held next month but had nothing new to add regarding RideSource AC or Paratransit.
- c) RideSource Call Center – Mr. Braunschweiger informed the committee that they were hiring drivers and that there had been a modest increase in ridership.
- d) South Lane Wheels (Cottage Grove) – Ms. Linoz said that the Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce awarded SLW with business of the year.
- e) Florence Rhody Express – Mr. Haring had nothing to report.
- f) Oakridge / Diamond Express – Ms. Goddard discussed Oakridge service changes.
- g) White Bird Clinic – Ms. Davis said that White Bird Clinic did not receive the grant to expand the crisis service center and they were thinking of moving to new building.

- h) LCOG Senior & Disability Services –Ms. Jacobsen said that the senior and disability services were being consolidated into one building so that all of the adult protective service community program staff and senior connections were with the Medicaid staff.
- i) LILA – Mr. Shearer had nothing to report.
- j) Other – None.

IX. Adjourn

The next regular meeting was scheduled for March 15 at 10 a.m. at the Next Stop Center. The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

(Recorded by Cara Mico)