

MINUTES OF BOARD SERVICE COMMITTEE
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on March 04, 2016, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board Service Committee of the Lane Transit District held a meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, beginning at 3:30 p.m., at the LTD Conference Room, 3500 E. 17th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon.

Present: Ed Necker, Chair
Gary Gillespie (via teleconference)
Tim Simon, Service Planner
Tom Schwetz, Planning and Development Manager
A.J. Jackson, General Manager
Nathan Banks, Service Planner
Heather Lindsay, Service Planner
Mark Johnson, xxxxx
Edward McGlone, xxxx
Renee Jones, Marketing Representative
Meg Kester, Marketing Manager

Absent: Angelynn Pierce

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mr. Necker convened the meeting at 3:35 p.m. and called the roll. Committee member Angelynn Pierce was unable to attend the meeting. Arrangements were made so Gary Gillespie was able to participate in the meeting via teleconference after 3:40 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL

MOTION: Mr. Necker deemed the minutes of December 15, 2015 approved.

Mr. Schwetz recognized Mr. Simon's recent presentation to the Springfield City Council. Mr. Schwetz said the Councilors generally supported LTD's findings and recommendations. He noted Councilor Woodrow expressed a desire for small buses for coverage routes such as the potential route to Jasper. Responding to Mr. Necker's questions about the type of route and bus envisioned, Ms. Jackson explained LTD's latest purchase agreement for buses enabled them to get 30-foot, 40-foot, or 60-foot buses. Mr. Schwetz illustrated the route on the whiteboard. The route envisioned served three schools and the Relief Nursery. LTD staff was not recommending going forward with the route at this time. More analysis was needed.

OVERVIEW OF 2016-17 ANNUAL ROUTE REVIEW (ARR)

Review 2016-17 ARR Changes

Mr. Simon gave a Powerpoint presentation entitled, *2016 Annual Route Review*. He noted

overall ridership was down. Decreased enrollment at the University of Oregon (UO) and Lane Community College (LCC) had resulted in declines in LTD ridership on college commuter routes. Ridership had increased on routes where LTD had improved frequency or connectivity (e.g., Route 12 and 66/67 on Shadow View Drive).

Mr. Simon briefed the Committee on the proposed route changes:

- Route 1 (Campbell Center)/Route 12 (Gateway): Reroute 12 so as to not duplicate Route 1. Increase the frequency of Route 1 by providing half-hour service, noon to 5:00 p.m.
- Route 11 (Thurston) and EmX: Increase Sunday frequency to every fifteen minutes. Mr. Gillespie noted Route 12 was a good alternative to the EmX for those going to Gateway Mall. When Mr. Necker asked how the mall remodeling had affected the covered walkway, Mr. Schwetz said it had been moved a bit north in the parking lot. He credited City of Springfield staff with negotiating with the new mall owners to keep the walkway. Mr. Simon added LTD planned to add a shelter on Harlow near the Walmart.
- Route 51 (Irving) and 52 (Santa Clara): Increase frequency so there are buses every fifteen minutes along the River Road Corridor.
- For the Cal Young neighborhood, increase Route 96 (Coburg), the commuter service, from seven to nine trips per day. Improve the frequency for Routes 66 (VRC/Coburg) and 67 (Coburg/VRC) to ensure reliability. When Mr. Gillespie asked about the financial implications of the changes, Mr. Simon said the additional seventeen trips had a service cost of \$428,000.
- Revise Route 33 (Jefferson) to be bi-directional, and extend to Woodfield Station shopping center and Amazon Station. Mr. Necker referenced a letter of support from the Friendly Area Neighbors and the petition dated February 10, 2016 endorsing the route change. When Mr. Gillespie asked if the turnaround point was still 28th and Chambers, Mr. Simon confirmed it was.
- Revise Route 40 (Echo Hollow) so the inbound portion was on Pearl, thus providing better service to the Amtrak station and 5th Street Public Market.
- Add one hour to Sunday service on major routes (EmX, 11, 12, 13, 24, 28, 36, 40, 41, 43, 51, 66, & 67). Responding to Mr. Gillespie's inquiry as to when would be the last departure time from downtown, Mr. Simon replied it was 8:30 p.m. for most buses, 9:20 p.m. for EmX.

Mr. Simon said two other changes had been investigated but were not recommended for implementation at this time. The first was to shift evening departures to :30 after the hour instead of :45 after the hour beginning at 7 p.m. Customer feedback was mixed and therefore staff recommended leaving the schedule as it was. The second change was improved service for the day after Thanksgiving. Again customer feedback did not indicate strong support for the change and staff recommended leaving buses on the Saturday service schedule. Mr. Gillespie opined adding very early morning service to support Black Friday shoppers might be popular.

In addition to monitoring the previously investigated service changes, Mr. Simon noted three other concepts to revisit in the future: Routes 17 (5th/Hayden Bridge) and 18 (Mohawk) – Adding trips to fill service gaps; Route 93 (Veneta) – Adding trips on Saturdays and introducing

Sunday service; and Springfield Connector – Create a new route to serve Springfield neighborhoods south of Main St between 32nd and Thurston Station.

Mr. Necker thanked staff for their work and said the recommendations were well thought out. Mr. Gillespie concurred. Overall, he said, the changes were quite positive.

Review Public Engagement Process and Findings

Ms. Jones referred to the handouts entitled, *2016 ARR Outreach Planning Calendar* and *ARR Customer Input, May 11, 2015-March 8, 2016*. She highlighted the presentations to community groups and neighborhood associations earlier in the year.

Ms. Kester discussed the *LTD Community Input Survey* results. She said 605 surveys had been completed to date, emphasizing the successful use of social media to encourage participation. Ms. Kester planned to follow up with everyone who had given their e-mail address to share the results of the survey and see if they wanted to be involved further. Mr. Gillespie commended her efforts.

PROJECT UPDATES

Evaluating Airport Connector Service

Mr. Simon reported the average weekly ridership on the airport connector was twenty-five. A meeting was scheduled with staff from the City of Eugene and LCC to evaluate the first three months of the service.

West Eugene Service Restructure

Mr. Simon explained major analysis was underway to ensure connectivity between the fixed routes and the EmX West Eugene line. Mr. Gillespie noted connectivity was an ongoing issue, especially to find ways that didn't require riders to come to the downtown station. When he asked about the status of the purchase of electric buses, Mr. Johnson explained five had been ordered. They expected delivery in August or September. The plan was to have them in-service by February, 2017.

Fixed Route Service Policy

Mr. Simon said the planning team had begun their review of the Fixed Route Service Policy. They hoped to have draft policy changes available for public input in the fall. Mr. Simon anticipated the LTD Board would review the policy changes early spring of 2017.

Bus Stop Information (BSI)

No update on the BSI system was presented. Mr. Simon noted bus shelters that were being replaced with EmX shelters were to be redistributed according to need statistics.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Necker adjourned the meeting at 4:55.
(*Transcribed from Beth Bridges*)