

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 17, 2016  
10 am – Noon  
Next Stop Center – Eugene Station  
1099 Olive Street – Eugene, Oregon

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Barron, Chair	Ruth Linoz
Bill Morganti	Eleanor Mulder
Paul Blaylock	Aline Goddard
Josh Haring	Tim Shearer
Scott Whetham	Ed Necker, ex officio
Stefan Kwiatkowski	Hoover Chamblis

STAFF:

Susan Hekimoglu	Tim Simon
Kris Lyon	Aurora "A.J." Jackson
David Braunschweiger	Scott McFarland
Janice Friend	

OTHERS:

Laurie Morris	Salish Davis
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**I. Call to order**

Mr. Barron called the Accessible Transportation Committee meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**II. Introductions, Announcements, Agenda Review**

Those present introduced themselves.

**III. Audience Participation**

Members of the public introduced themselves.

**IV. ACTION: Minutes Approval April 19th, 2015**

**MOTION:** Ms. Goddard, seconded by Ms. Linoz, moved to approve the April 19th minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**V. West Eugene EmX Bus Service Redesign**

Mr. Simon described the service redesign process. The website for the west Eugene service

redesign located at [www.ltd.org/2017-west-eugene-service-redesign/](http://www.ltd.org/2017-west-eugene-service-redesign/) was made available for public information and as a resource for public input. The website provided a broad overall picture of the redesign, a map depicting variations side by side, and route concepts. The website was designed to be an outreach tool and the routes presented were finalized. Ms. Linoz asked about the overall purpose of the redesign. Mr. Simon replied that it was for increased coverage and clarified that no area would lose coverage and some places would see an increase in coverage. There was a discussion of how the route would cover the Fair Grounds. Service to the Pearl Buck Center would increase as would service to Veneta which would get weekend service as well. There was a discussion about the stops along locations without sidewalks and with poor lighting for people with wheelchairs. There was a discussion of proposed route changes, wait times, and demand. Mr. Simon said that the frequency of service on River Road was increased to meet demand. Mr. Chamblis noted that routes 43 and 45 get jammed to which Mr. Simon replied that the EmX would alleviate that somewhat. Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about new vehicles and when the new buses would be cycled in. Ms. Jackson said that the buses were part of the west Eugene project and would be dedicated for that purpose.

#### **VI. ACTION: Draft LTD Reasonable Accommodation Policy**

Ms. Hekimoglu said corrections were made to the policy based on comments received at the April ATC meeting. Mr. Necker asked about the use of the word modification versus accommodation. Ms. Jackson explained that the District was required to make both modifications to policy and to provide accommodations for riders. Ms. Linoz asked if grant recipients were required to have the same accommodation policy in place. Ms. Hekimoglu said that sub-recipients could reference the LTD policy.

Mr. Shearer said that the word equally needed to be changed to equitable. He asked about the term 'qualified' in the policy in terms of disabilities and asked who determined if an individual had a qualified disability. The group thought the eligibility criteria should be used instead as it was more concrete. Mr. Shearer referenced 5D, (where modifications were requested and couldn't be made and determined in advance) and asked for examples. Ms. Hekimoglu said that a rider might need an immediate accommodation, if the operator couldn't make the determination immediately they would call it in. Mr. Shearer asked about who could make an accommodation request and wanted to include 'or their representative' for people who couldn't communicate. He asked what people do for transportation during the waiting process. Ms. Hekimoglu thought that they could potentially be RideSource eligible. She used an example of a parent of a child with a disability wanting to use the child's stroller as a mobility device. They would be RideSource eligible if they couldn't ride the bus for any reason. Ms. Linoz thought that it would be helpful to include the description of the process in the policy. Ms. Jackson said that the FTA recommends the policy as a minimum, the policy was written to define the modifications and accommodations for people who could not ride the

bus. Mr. Shearer suggested for number 8 that the response needed to be in the same format that the request was made in, or whatever method was most effective for the person to get the information. Mr. Shearer discussed number 10 and requested that it be rewritten for clarity stating that the appeal process was confusing. He wanted to see the language clarified. Ms. Hekimoglu said that she could write a step-by-step linear process. Ms. Linoz suggested that the confusion was from mixing what the complainer needed to do versus what the agency was required to do. There was a discussion of the language level and accessibility.

Ms. Hekimoglu said that she would make the recommended changes and bring the policy back to the Committee in June.

#### **VII. Fiscal Year 2016-17 Special Transportation Fund Budget Review**

The Fy2016 and 2017 Accessible Services budget was distributed at the meeting. Ms. Hekimoglu said that the budget review was for information only because the Special Transportation Fund (STF) budget was in the second year of the two-year budget cycle. The next two-year cycle would begin in September 2016. Ms. Hekimoglu reported that all grant funds were doing well. There had been some projects that had gone over budget, while others were under budget, but there was flexibility to move resources from one project to another without having to rely on the LTD General Fund to close the gap.

#### **VIII. 2016 Special Transportation Fund Discretionary (STF) Grant Program Update**

Ms. Hekimoglu said that they submitted grant applications for several projects. The Florence to Yachats gap which had been ranked as number 1 by the group had been fully funded as a project of statewide significance. There was a discussion of the size of the vehicle that would be used for the route and how the route would be designed. The Countywide volunteer integration project which was ranked as number 2 by the group was partially funded for \$116k and would be scaled back. The LTD half-fare/service animal project, which had been ranked number 3 by the group was fully funded. The replacement vehicles for the Rhody Express and the Diamond Express were not funded.

#### **IX. 2016-17 ATC Membership**

There would be a push for summer recruitment of Committee members and there was a discussion if there was a need to meet in July or August. The group decided that they could possibly meet in the summer if necessary although some members would be travelling. The group was provided with a list of members with expiring term limits for information. The bylaws allowed members to be reappointed up to 3 terms. Mr. Morganti and Mr. Barron both said they would serve again.

## **X. Bus Stop Information Signage Review**

Mr. McFarland said that the marketing department was looking to update the existing bus signs to make them more useful. He requested feedback and suggestions regarding what the Committee Members would like to see on the signs. Some possible changes would include reducing the size of the logo and changing the graphics for morning and afternoon routes. Mr. Kwiatkowski suggested looking at the size of the location name. Mr. Shearer said that the height of the sign was an issue for wheelchair users. He added that ice sometimes made the signs impossible to read. There was a discussion of the right of way requirements for height placement. Mr. McFarland said that the font had to be the same width. There was general agreement that the a.m./p.m. color difference was better than bold font. The top was too small and the major time points could be on the bottom. There was some missing holiday information. Mr. Barron suggested a line drawing with a dot for each stop to be placed inside the EmX stations and vehicles, much like you would see on a light-rail or subway system.

## **XI. Program Updates**

- a) Lane Transit District – Cosette Rees was not present and there were no other updates.
- b) RideSource Call Center Advisory Committee – Ms. Lyon had no updates.
- c) RideSource Call Center – Mr. Braunschweiger said that they were working on the phone system and had no other news to report.
- d) RideSource ADA paratransit – Mr. Braunschweiger said that the RideSource and call center were merging and added that there were staff openings. They were currently hiring drivers and office staff.
- e) South Lane Wheels (Cottage Grove) – Ms. Linoz said that they were looking for drivers and anticipating changes in staffing. She said that they had also experienced their 3rd attempt at vandalism which resulted in two drained bus tanks and stolen equipment. They were considering a surveillance system.
- f) Florence Rhody Express – Mr. Haring said that their bus driver was possibly moving and their back-up driver was moving and as a result they were going to hire soon.
- g) Oakridge / Diamond Express – Ms. Goddard had nothing to report but noted that there had been a meth lab in their building which resulted in a police raid. She also noted that the Swallows had returned to nest.
- h) White Bird Clinic – Ms. Davis thanked Ms. Hekimoglu and Ms. Lyon for their assistance during the Clinic's recent budget crunch.
- i) Alternative Work Concepts – Scott Whetham was not present.
- j) LCOG Senior & Disability Services – Rachel Jacobsen was not present.
- k) LILA – Mr. Shearer had nothing to report.

## **XII. Adjourn**

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Next Stop Center. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

*(Recorded by Cara Mico)*