

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

September 18, 1973

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lane County Mass Transit District was held at the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon, on September 18, 1973, at 7:30 P.M.

Present were:

Craig Robinson, President, presiding
Phyllis P. Loobey, Secretary
Daniel M. Herbert, Treasurer
Gary Buell
Fred Brunner
Fred Dyer, General Manager
Richard Bryson, Counsel.

Absent were:

Leonard Wildish, Vice President
Glenn Randall

MINUTES: Reading of the minutes of the meetings of August 17, August 21, and August 23, 1973, was dispensed with as copies had been sent to all members of the Board. On motion duly seconded the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of those meetings as written.

TRANSPORTATION OF THE HANDICAPPED AND DISABLED: Mr. Robinson announced that he was declaring the meeting open for public discussion of the problems of the transportation of the physically disadvantaged. He told the Board and the members of the public present that the Board has been studying this problem for a long time but has not yet made any formal policy determination and, frankly, the members do not know how to solve it. He called for public comment.

Ken Horton, service officer of the Disabled American Veterans, co-ordinator of scouting for the D. A. V. and a member of the President's committee on employment of the handicapped, told the Board how expensive it is for one to use a wheelchair ambulance as a mode of transportation. He distributed a pamphlet containing a Bill of Rights for the handicapped and informed the Board that at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois, they have a fleet of buses with hydraulic lifts for the disabled which lifts are removable. He also mentioned that he believes it will be difficult for the Board to persuade the disabled to get in touch with the Board and give information as to where they are and what their needs are because they are feeling rejected.

Peter Marcus, a University of Oregon architecture student and member of the Architectural Barriers Council, described the exclusion of the disabled from public transportation as a form of segregation. He said he was including the very old, the very young, and the physically disabled. He felt that the Board should give priority to those who have no alternative means of transportation instead of trying to provide an alternative system for those who already drive automobiles.

Larry Craig, a University of Oregon student and chairman of the Eugene-Springfield Architectural Barriers Council, spoke in opposition to the Board acquiring a special mini-bus for the handicapped and favored equipping all the new buses with hydraulic lifts. He reminded the Board of all of the legislation intended to assist handicapped people as an indication of legislative policy and mentioned the work that is being done to make public buildings accessible to the handicapped, and then pointed out that all of this would be wasted if public transportation facilities are not available to the handicapped so that they can reach the public buildings.

State Representative, Nancy Fadely, urged that the handicapped and elderly not be isolated and said that she had requested an opinion from the Oregon Attorney General as to the use of federal funds by this district, and that in response the Attorney General had made inquiry of the federal government which inquiry has not been answered.

Pam Earl, who is employed by the Eugene Park and Recreation Board, urged the Board to provide adequate transportation facilities for the handicapped.

Helen Busette, an employee of Public Welfare Adult Services, spoke of the transportation needs of people in nursing homes.

Paula Stevenson, a Lane County nurse, urged the Board to discontinue making bus service available only to the chosen few who can run after the bus.

David Eggeman, a student at Lane Community College, spoke of the needs of disabled students who want to attend college but are unable to obtain the necessary transportation.

Charlotte Malony, an occupational therapist, advised the Board of the existence of hydraulic buses which can lower themselves to the curb level, and urged that such buses be investigated.

Jean Harrington, Outreach Coordinator for Adult Retarded in Lane County, spoke of the needs of retarded people.

Dennis Celorie, Chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Committee, asked the Board to provide for persons with mobility problems on all the new buses.

Don Johnson spoke in favor of special adaptation of all the new buses for the disadvantaged.

Jim Martin advocated making all of the new buses available for disabled persons as the most economical approach to the problem. He said that statistics are available from Portland and elsewhere concerning the number of handicapped persons which can be adjusted for the Eugene-Springfield area and urged the Board to make a policy to provide adequate facilities on all new buses for the use of the disabled.

Bill Leonard, owner of Eugene-Springfield Ambulance Service, announced that his company's charges for transportation by ambulance would be \$10.25 per mile. He offered his services to help work with the Board in solving the problem of transportation of the disabled and made particular mention of the problems of students at Pearl Buck School and students at Lane Community College.

The Chairman then called for any further comments or remarks from the audience and there were no others who wished to speak.

Mr. Robinson then thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions. He said that he has received a study of the subject from UMTA showing that they are in a quandry about how to handle this problem and that the Board members are searching for answers. The Board is obligated to base its services on need.

Fred Dyer, General Manager, told the Board that the American Mass Transportation Association and the American Transit Association and the Highway Research Board all provide information and recommendations. The June 25, 1973, bulletin of the American Transit Association shows that they are asking the same questions that we are and that one of its goals is to acquire a body of information relative to transportation for the handicapped. That association recommends an effort to obtain information such as the Board is now undertaking. A July, 1973, pamphlet from UMTA says that the recommended approach for local planning includes obtaining information as to the number of people involved and the costs of providing them with service. He also mentioned the need to proceed promptly with the capital grant application so that the district can purchase the physical plant it is using and stop paying rent on it.

Mr. Robinson told the audience that the capital grant application requires justification with statistical data which we so far do not have and have been unable to find.

Jerry Egan, a student at Lane Community College, told the Board of the Portland, Oregon, report indicating that 4.2 per cent of the population are chronically handicapped.

Phyllis Loobey responded that according to UMTA we need more than the National Health Service statistics and applications thereof such as Portland has prepared in order to justify our federal grant.

Ken Horton suggested that the Board might contact organizations such as the Veterans organizations, the Children's Hospital School, and the Welfare Disabilities Committee to get information as to the number and location of the physically handicapped.

Ollie Snowden responded that on behalf of the district he has contacted almost all organizations in the community and has been able to obtain very little information as a result.

Mr. Robinson appointed a subcommittee consisting of Phyllis Loobey, Chairman and Gary Buell to work with the General Manager and study the matter further and report back to the Board.

OPERATIONS: Mr. Dyer reported that the district has embarked on its program of special rates for senior citizens and the drivers are instructed to accept any standard form of identification as to age. Medicare eligibles are requesting the same privileges and Mr. Robinson asked that Mr. Dyer study the matter and make his recommendation at a later date.

Mr. Brunner asked if Mr. Dyer could reduce the headway of the buses in the middle of the day during slack hours and save any money. Mr. Dyer responded that the matter is under study by Mr. Rynerson. Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Rynerson to have a short report at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Dyer reported that the general status of the system is quite good and that the drivers and riders are responding well to operational changes.

MARKETING: Jerry Allen played recordings of several new radio advertisements stressing privileges for senior citizens, changes in bus routes and the new schedules and also the new night service.

FEDERAL GRANT: It was brought to the Board's attention that the federal grant application requires that a public hearing be held on the proposed project being financed by the federal grant and that at least thirty days advance notice must be published in the newspaper. The Board thereupon determined to call a public hearing for October 23, 1973, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon, and directed publication of the necessary advertisement thereof.

PLANNING: Ollie Snowden filed a written report on the LASTS and on the county-wide transportation priorities and said that he still hopes that it will be possible to have public meetings on the ESATS report this fall.

Dave Rynerson told the board that he has been receiving comments on the route changes and on the extended service. He is studying whether it would be possible to cut service, but remarked that any reduction in service produces complaints. He said the district will soon be producing new area maps, color-coded pocket sized, and that the district is installing a sign board at 10th and Willamette Streets in Eugene showing all of the bus routes.

Mr. Dyer reported that he met with the Eugene Renewal Agency advisory committee on parking, at which a survey and recommendation was received to locate parking structures on 8th Avenue between Willamette and Olive streets in Eugene and that recommendations were also received for joint use of the land for both parking and bus terminal. There was also discussion at the meeting of the possible use of part of that area for shops, restaurants, etc.

The Chairman, Mr. Robinson, stated that a petition has been received from people on the Harlow Road-Gamebird Village Route as to changes in their service. Mr. Dyer responded as to the reasons for the changes.

FINANCE: Mr. Dyer presented his written financial reports for the month of August, 1973. On motion duly seconded the board voted unanimously to authorize payment of the bills in the total sum of \$42,668.18 as presented by Mr. Dyer.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Robinson announced that previous executive sessions of the board resulted in recommendations for the following salary changes and creation of new positions: that Dave Rynerson's salary be set at \$875 per month effective July 1, 1973, and that he be given the title "Director of Planning"; that Gary Hunt's salary be set at \$750 per month effective July 1, 1973, and that his title be "Administrative Assistant"; that Mavis Skipworth's salary be set at \$550 per month effective July 1, 1973, and that she be given the title "Administrative Secretary"; that two supervisors' jobs be created at a salary of \$900 per month with Paul Hedley named as one of the supervisors effective July 1, 1973, and the other supervisor's position be filled later; that the position for two inspectors be created at a salary of \$780 per month, to be filled later; and that the salary of Fred Dyer as general manager be increased to \$21,120 per year effective July 1, 1973. On motion duly seconded the foregoing recommendations were unanimously approved and adopted by the board.

Mr. Dyer requested permission from the board to take a vacation of one week in the month of October, 1973, which, on motion duly seconded, received the unanimous approval of the board.

INSURANCE: Mr. Dyer reported that he has received word from the district's insurance representative in Portland that the board

should anticipate a substantial refund in insurance premiums in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion duly seconded the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Secretary