

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

July 16, 1974

The regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of Lane County Mass Transit District was held on July 16, 1974, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon.

Present:

Gary Buell
Jack J. Craig, Treasurer
Daniel M. Herbert, President, presiding
Kenneth H. Kohnen, Vice President
Glenn E. Randall, Secretary
Ruth A. Shepherd
Fred Dyer, General Manager
Richard Bryson, Counsel.

Absent:

Marcella Fetzer.

MINUTES: Reading of minutes of the budget committee meetings of June 18 and 19, and board of directors meetings of June 18 and 19, 1974, was dispensed with as copies of those minutes had been furnished to all members. On motion duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve said minutes as written.

LEGISLATION: Fred Dyer, general manager, reported on current and pending federal legislation providing financial support to mass transit.

FEDERAL GRANT: Mr. Dyer told the board that the new federal grant contract and requisition for funds have been submitted to UMTA.

RETIREMENT PLAN: The general manager reported that the retirement program is moving along toward finalization.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Dyer presented to each member of the board of directors a table of organization of the staff and employees of the district, dated July 12, 1973, including an index page and 20 numbered pages and showing a table of organization and job descriptions for the personnel of the administrative services, transportation services and maintenance division of the district, together with the shift details of the maintenance division. Mr.

Dyer stated that this table of organization was prepared in conformity with the recently adopted budget. He said that he was asking the board for authorization to proceed with implementing the table of organization in stages as required and when funds are available for that purpose. After discussion and on motion of Mr. Randall seconded by Mr. Craig, the board voted with no dissenting votes, to accept the table of organization as proposed by the general manager and authorize him to implement the proposal.

PASS SYSTEM: The manager, reporting on the pass system, told the board that during the first week of that system, 120 passes were issued. He reported that the drivers seem to like the system and have informed him that it cuts down on their transfer requirements. So far, the passes have been issued to the county, its employees and dependents, but Mr. Dyer expects to make them available to other major employers and probably to the public by the time school starts in September.

DOWNTOWN EUGENE TERMINAL: The manager advised the board that two different structural concepts for the terminal have been presented to the task force, the major difference between them being the impact of the parking of automobiles.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE: At the request of the president, the general manager presented to the board three alternatives of level of service. The first alternative would be to stay within the present level of service and not implement the entire capital grant program at this time. The second alternative would be to aim to provide the level of service contemplated by the budget but defer implementation thereof until after July 1975, and not have the tax apply to the outlying areas until January 1, 1975. The third alternative would be selective partial extension of service.

Mr. Kohnen said that he did not feel the district was ready to extend services outside the present service area without more study and planning and more knowledge of what it would cost this year and in future years and where the money would be coming from. He felt the need for additional input from outlying areas and time to consider the legal problems, the relationship to private carriers and other problems involved in the extension of service. Mr. Kohnen moved the adoption of the following motion:

"MOVED, that the staff be directed to proceed in a systematic way to develop detailed plans for the extension of transit service to areas in the county outside the present taxing area, to keep the Board informed as to progress, and to await further direction from the Board as to commencement of service."

Motion was seconded by Mrs. Shepherd.

Jack Craig argued that this was a wrecking motion and if the board passed it he hoped the governor would fire the entire board. He also remarked that he thinks that the big employers are pressuring the administrations of the small towns to oppose expansion of service.

Mr. Randall spoke in opposition to the motion, stating that employers in the Eugene-Springfield area should not have to pay the cost of study and planning for extension of service outside the area.

Mr. Buell said that he agreed with Mr. Randall about the burden of the planning costs, but favors Mr. Kohnen's motion as service should not be extended to the outlying areas if the people in those areas don't want the service.

Mr. Herbert suggested that Mr. Kohnen change the words "detailed plans" in his motion to "preliminary plans". Mr. Kohnen approved the change in his motion and after discussion, his second, Mrs. Shepherd, consented to the change.

Mrs. Shepherd asked the manager what planning had been done for extension of service to date and Mr. Dyer responded that planning had been done by the Department of Transportation of Lane County, Oregon, within the last six months as a result of LCOG hearings and that the county had undertaken a feasibility study as the transit district had not appropriated the money to do that itself. He also said that in preparation of the budget the staff had attempted to respond to what it thought was the public demand and the wishes of the board of directors.

Mr. Herbert expressed his view as not being opposed to extension of service, but as feeling the need to develop good information from which to make decisions on extension of service to the outlying areas, including the need for discussions with the city governments in the outlying areas, all of which he felt could be done in relatively short order.

Mr. Kohnen stated that he did not consider his motion to be a wrecking motion at all, but only an expression of his feeling that the board should have more information before acting.

Jack Craig then moved to amend Mr. Kohnen's motion so as to set a deadline of September 17, 1974, for a report from the staff and for consideration of action to be taken. The motion was seconded by Mr. Randall.

The board continued discussion of the motion and amendment, during which Mrs. Shepherd stated her desire for a staff analysis and summary of existing plans to help in deciding what steps are the first order of business and some sense of direction as to

priorities geographically; Mr. Kohnen requested more input from the outlying communities and additional staff work and Mr. Herbert remarked the board should respond to the requests from the outlying areas for more information and co-operation. Mr. Randall gave his opinion that the opposition to extension of service at the last budget hearing came from taxpayers and that the testimony of people in need of service and favoring extension of service should be given more weight than the testimony of the opposition.

Mr. Herbert told the board that the staff has over 1,200 requests for extension of service from individuals and requests from two chambers of commerce; that he agrees that extension of service is needed, but also agrees that more study should precede action by the board.

Mr. Dyer told the board that he would like to have meetings with city leaders of the various outlying communities to discuss the matter with them and is prepared to do additional staff work in response to the budget hearings, but feels the need for policy guidance from the board.

Mr. Herbert then opened the meeting to discussion from members of the public.

Jack Lively, an attorney, stated that he was appearing for the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce; that the board should not approve extension of service without making proper studies and findings as to the need for service and the economics thereof; that if the board had voted a tax levy in excess of .6 of one per cent of the payroll of taxable employers, it would have been in violation of the statute limiting the taxing powers to .6 of one per cent thereof and requested an opportunity to discuss in the future the matter of finding ways of providing service without spending so much more than the cost of the service.

Jack Craig responded that Mr. Lively was distorting the cost figures and the economics of the plan for extension of service and that, in the long run, it would probably turn out that the Eugene-Springfield area would be subsidizing the transportation costs of the residents of outlying areas.

Jim Bradbury, public affairs representative for Weyerhaeuser, suggested that the board try to find out more about what the people of Cottage Grove want. He remarked that he was editor of the Cottage Grove newspaper for several years before he took his present position and that he had not heard of any studies being conducted in the Cottage Grove area.

Ronald S. Peterson, City Administrator of the city of Oakridge, explained to the board that in March, 1974, after he had asked the district about extending service to Oakridge, he was

informed that the district was not going to extend service to that area, and therefore, the city has started discussions with the State Department of Transportation in order to obtain financing for a transportation program. He said that he expects to have a meeting with representatives of the State Department of Transportation and Mr. Dyer within the next two weeks in order to discuss the matter further.

Howard Campbell, from the Florence Chamber of Commerce, informed the board that the Chamber of Commerce and the city of Florence are opposed to being included in the expansion of service.

Harold Reeve, speaking for Davidson Industries at Mapleton, Oregon, expressed the need for further study, especially in the Mapleton area where he felt there had not been any studies made.

Jake Mann advised the board that it is not economical to run buses from Florence to Eugene and that he wanted to see a plan that would assure the taxpayers of getting something for their money.

Mr. Herbert asked if there was any other member of the audience who wanted to address the board, and, hearing no response, declared the public discussion of the matter closed.

Mr. Craig's amendment to set a deadline of September 17, 1974, for a report from the staff and for consideration of action to be taken, was then voted upon and carried with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Kohnen's motion with the change in the words "detailed plans" to "preliminary plans" was then voted upon and carried with no dissenting votes.

Mr. Herbert then announced that at the request of a board member, the district's counsel, Mr. Bryson, had prepared and brought to the meeting ordinances with emergency clauses ready to be submitted for consideration which would enlarge the service area to include the entire area of Lane County, Oregon, and would apply the payroll tax ordinance to that entire area. No action in regard to those ordinance was proposed and the matter was dropped.

FINANCIAL ALTERNATIVES: The president of the district, Mr. Herbert, presented to the board members a written outline giving the background of the types of financing made available to the district under the statutes and a brief history of how the district has met its financial needs to date, together with Mr. Herbert's proposal that a committee be appointed to study alternatives to the payroll tax. He then opened the matter for public comment.

Jack Lively, attorney, stated that he appeared on behalf of the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, and proposed that the board should consider either a property tax or a sales tax, either of which he thought would be more fair than a payroll tax which he found especially burdensome to the lumber industry and he favored restudy of the matter.

Annabel Kitzhaber, representing the League of Women Voters, suggested that members of the public should be on the committee and that the committee should consider not only presently available sources of revenue, but also should consider asking the legislature for other sources.

John Auld told the board that he thinks a restudy of the matter is needed and that the district needs a broader base of tax support than is provided by the employers payroll tax.

Harold Reeve, representing Davidson Industries, also expressed the need for a broader tax base.

There being no other members of the audience who wanted to be heard, Mr. Herbert declared the public participation on this point closed.

Mr. Craig moved that Mr. Herbert be instructed to appoint a subcommittee which could include board members and others and instruct that committee to make a study of alternatives to the payroll tax.

Mr. Herbert responded that if the motion carried, he would appoint a committee of from six to nine members, some of whom would be members of the district's board of directors and some of whom would be outside the board and would charge it to study tax support alternatives and report and make recommendations to the board.

During the discussion of the motion, some of the board members expressed the view that the committee should be kept small and that outsiders should be used primarily for testimony before the committee rather than as members; that there should not be undue constraints on the committee and that members should be appointed only if they are willing to work and able to analyze complex situations. Mrs. Shepherd said that rather than instructing the committee to find alternatives to the payroll tax, the president should instruct the committee to study all financial resources.

After discussion, Mr. Craig's motion, having been duly seconded, was brought to a vote and carried with no dissenting vote.

FINANCE: Mr. Dyer, the general manager, presented to the board the financial reports for the month of June, 1974, and on motion duly seconded the board voted without dissent to authorize payment of the bills as shown in the report for the month of June, 1974, in the total sum of \$76,727.00.

GENERAL MANAGER: At the request of Mr. Dyer and on motion duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to authorize him to take a vacation during the period July 29-August 10, 1974.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was then adjourned to Tuesday evening, July 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon.

Secretary