

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

September 16, 1975

The board of directors of Lane County Mass Transit District met on September 16, 1975 at 7:30 P.M. in the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon.

Present:

Richard A. Booth
Jack J. Craig, Treasurer
Daniel M. Herbert, President, presiding
Kenneth H. Kohnen, Vice President
Ruth Shepherd
Richard Bryson, Counsel
Fred C. Dyer, General Manager
Mavis Skipworth, Recording Secretary

Absent:

W. Gene Davis
Glenn Randall, Secretary

Reading of the minutes of August 14 and August 19, 1975 was dispensed with as copies had been distributed to all members of the board. On motion by Mr. Booth and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as distributed.

STUDENT PASSES: Mr. Dyer advised that information on the passes available for secondary school students has been disseminated to area schools and the media; the cost of the unlimited monthly pass is \$7.75 and the limited pass at \$7.00 may be used only during the hours of 6 to 9:00 a.m. and 2 to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Mrs. Shepherd asked if the district has the potential to accommodate students not presently served by the fixed routes and the staff said it will attempt to obtain data on the number and locations of those students. Discussion followed on a possible program for families with more than one student receiving further discounts on passes. Mrs. Shepherd recommended that representatives from the school board and the district board study this need and present a recommendation at the October board meeting.

SEPTEMBER 21 ROUTE SYSTEM: David Rynerson reported on the minor system changes to be implemented September 21.

The board received notice of the October 2 Metropolitan Area Transportation Alternatives meeting which Mr. Rynerson said is being held for informational purposes and encouraged interested members to attend.

OPERATIONAL AND POLICY GUIDELINES FOR DEMAND-RESPONSE SERVICE: Mr. Rynerson gave a brief overview of the proposed Operational and Policy Guidelines for the demand-response service, and requested board approval on one of the two alternatives described in the report: Alternative One to include a four bus demand response service for the physically limited and a one bus low frequency feeder service for the elderly; Alternative Two to consist of a five bus demand response service for the physically limited with an ongoing monitoring of trip making patterns to determine if additional feeder service is feasible.

Mr. Herbert announced that he was declaring the meeting open for public discussion and comments.

Martin Weideman, chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Persons with Limited Mobility, spoke in favor of Alternative Two.

Ken Horton, Senior Vice Commander, Local Chapter of Disabled American Veterans, voiced his preference for Alternative Two and requested less emphasis be placed on destinations to public agencies and more on medical, shopping and employment. He spoke of the need for transportation accessibility, as well as for buildings being architecturally barrier-free for the employment of the handicapped. He suggested the district consider hiring persons with limited mobility for dispatching the demand-response vehicles.

Collin Gray, representing Oregon Architectural Barriers Council, spoke in support of Alternative Two, and asked that consideration be given to serving outlying area destinations. Ellen Bevington advised that the selected destinations can be changed to serve the greatest need.

Al Casady stated his preference for Alternative Two and noted that as all businesses are subject to the payroll tax, it could be unfair to limit the destination stops to selected areas. Mr. Dyer advised that intermittent stops would have an adverse effect on the time schedule, particularly for persons using the system to get to places of employment.

Chris Casady, representing the state board of OABC, said his main interest is in transportation of the physically limited to areas of employment. He asked the district to adopt Alternative Two and expand the system. He urged more emphasis on employment destinations and for the district to retrofit the buses for the handicapped.

Dennis Celorie, OABS, spoke in favor of Alternative Two and urged transportation availability to places of employment.

Mr. Herbert then called for additional public comment on the demand-response system. Hearing none, he thanked those in attendance for their informed public testimony. Mr. Booth expressed the opinion that the system could be utilized for employment areas in the early morning and late afternoon, and could serve other needs between those hours.

Mrs. Shepherd spoke of the segment of the elderly population lacking agility to use the present fixed routes who do not consider themselves handicapped, and expressed doubt that they would certify their eligibility to use the demand-response system and would continue to remain isolated. She spoke further in favor of Alternative One and requested input from the Senior planners. Mr. Kohnen expressed concern that Alternative One would dilute the program for the certified physically limited and that one vehicle would not be effective as a feeder.

Following discussion, Mr. Kohnen moved that the board adopt Alternative Two as a guideline for planning for the provision of service for the physically limited and proceed with planning on the operation of a feeder system. Mr. Craig seconded the motion. Those voting in favor of the motion were Craig, Herbert and Kohnen; those opposed, Booth and Shepherd. Mr. Craig changed his vote to oppose the motion. The motion failed.

Mrs. Shepherd suggested Alternative One be adopted as a demonstration project with a time limit on the experiment for evaluation of the use of the one vehicle for feeder service. Mr. Dyer expressed the opinion that less than one year would not be a fair test, and once the single vehicle is put to that use it would be difficult to withdraw the service from those people who have become dependent upon it. Mrs. Shepherd then suggested adopting Alternative One with the understanding that feeder service would not be expanded and the next vehicle obtained would be used otherwise. Further discussion followed on modifying the eligibility requirements in Alternative 2.

Mr. Kohnen then moved that the matter be referred back to the staff to gather more input from senior groups, taking into consideration the board discussion and present a new recommendation. Mr. Booth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Mrs. Al Casady, of the audience, said that the seniors have been enjoying transportation all their lives and to take away the new horizons the handicapped are about to encounter seems almost criminal; that many have never been on a bus and they deserve a chance.

WEST LANE BUS PROJECT: Mr. Herbert asked the board's approval to distribute a letter to the Citizens Advisory Committee of the West Lane Bus Project expressing the district's interest in the project. Following discussion and revision of the last paragraph, Mr. Craig moved the letter be approved as amended. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

BUDGET PROCEDURES: Ruth Shepherd presented the recommendations of the board subcommittee on budget procedures. Discussion followed on the sequence of workshops and formal meetings. Mr. Herbert directed the subcommittee to give further study of when work sessions should be held and clarification of information required at various stages of the budget process.

FINANCE AND BUDGET: Mr. Craig moved the monthly bills be paid in the amount of \$143,418.44. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HEARING: The budget officer, Fred Dyer, presented a supplemental budget of \$279,000 for the fiscal year 1975-76. He told the board that the reason for the supplemental budget was that federal funds which had been expected to come in during the fiscal year 1974-75 did not come in until after the beginning of the current fiscal year and, therefore, represents unanticipated receipts for which a budget has to be prepared. He recommended that the board grant the salary increases provided for in the supplemental budget and that the board adopt the supplemental budget. Mr. Herbert declared the meeting open for public discussion on the supplemental budget. Hearing none, Mr. Herbert gave the second call and there was no response. He closed the public hearing.

Mr. Bryson read the following resolution for approval of the Supplemental Budget:

"RESOLVED, that the Supplemental Budget of \$279,000 submitted by the budget officer providing for \$53,244 for personal services, allocated to the salaried employees in accordance with the schedule included in the supplemental budget, \$4,000 for advertising and promotion, \$220,000 principal and \$1,756 interest on outstanding warrant indebtedness to Citizens Bank of Oregon, and providing for \$279,000 resources from federal Section 5 operating grant funds, all as set forth in the copy of said Supplemental Budget filed with the secretary and made part of this Resolution, is hereby adopted, and said funds are hereby appropriated for the purposes specified therein."

Mr. Craig moved adoption of the Resolution which was read by Mr. Bryson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kohnen and voted upon favorably by Craig, Herbert, Kohnen, Shepherd. Mr. Booth opposed. The motion carried.

INCOME TAX: As requested by the board, the staff reported on information researched by Mr. Bryson on whether the district could acquire part or all of its receipts from taxation for the current fiscal year by levying an income tax instead of depending entirely upon the payroll tax, notwithstanding that the payroll tax was the only tax mentioned in the budget for the current fiscal year. Mr. Bryson's opinion was that the district could lawfully acquire part or all of its tax revenues from an income tax rather than from a payroll tax. On the question of when an election would be held if a referendum was ordered by the board of directors or was required by petition, Mr. Bryson advised that there are conflicting statutes. The most recent statute, ORS 198,580, which applies to districts, generally, provides that the board shall call an election at the next regular district election, but in any event, not less than 30 days nor more than 50 days after a resolution is adopted by the board referring the ordinance or after a petition is filed. The older statute which applies solely to mass transit districts, provides that referendum shall be conducted in accordance with ORS 254.340 and under that statute a referendum would be voted upon at the next general election. Mr. Bryson reported that the attorney general's office considers ORS 254.340 controlling, and he is willing to acquiesce in that opinion, although he considers the matter debatable.


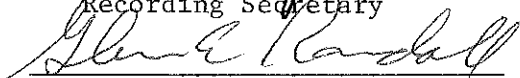
Phyllis Loobey reported on a meeting with representatives of the Department of Revenue, September 8, to discuss lead time necessary for including the income tax on the state tax form, or for supplemental reporting forms.

Mr. Booth urged implementation of the income tax at the earliest possible date to offset the payroll tax. Discussion followed on the time and sequence necessary to attempt implementation of the tax. Mr. Craig expressed the opinion that the board should seek public input and that a subcommittee should be appointed to investigate and explore the necessity of presenting the income tax to the voters. Mr. Booth said he did not believe that a public hearing was necessary as the public response has previously been favorable. Further discussion was held on the advisability of informing the public and working with the business community.

Mr. Craig then moved the board meet as a whole to explore all aspects of the income tax including the possibility of a referral to the voters. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dyer advised that he would attend an American Public Transit Association meeting the week of September 29 and would be on vacation the week of October 6.

The meeting was adjourned to Monday, September 22, 7:00 P.M. at City Hall to continue discussion of the income tax.


Recording Secretary

Secretary