

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
July 20, 1976

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 July 20, 1976, at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Jack J. Craig
W. Gene Davis, Secretary
Daniel M. Herbert, President, presiding
Annabel Kitzhaber
Kenneth H. Kohnen, Vice President
Glenn E. Randall
Fred C. Dyer, General Manager
Mavis Skipworth, Recording Secretary

News media representatives:

Marvin Tims, Eugene Register Guard
Rick Grimshaw, Newsservice 16

Absent:

Richard A. Booth, Treasurer

MINUTES: Reading of the minutes of the board meeting of June 15, 1976, was dispensed with as copies had been distributed to all members of the board. Upon motion duly seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Bonney reported that the July meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee was cancelled because of poor attendance. Mr. Herbert asked that the committee nominate a member to serve on the Evaluation Methods Committee.

UMTA/FHWA GUIDELINES: A summary of guidelines published by UMTA and FHWA for the Transportation of Elderly and Handicapped Persons was distributed to board members. Mr. Dyer gave assurance that the district had anticipated these requirements and is progressing well in conformance.

CONTRACTING OF SERVICES: The board received copies of an opinion prepared by the district's legal counsel on the contracting of services with a private firm or corporation to perform part of the district's function of operating a public transportation system. The opinion stated that although the statutes do not expressly prohibit such contracts, the district probably lacks the statutory authority and Mr. Bryson advised against making such contracts. The board was informed that Tri-Met is proposing to augment its demand-response system for physically limited and elderly through contractual arrangements with taxi service and the chairman directed the staff to remain informed of their progress. Mr. Kohnen commended Mr. Bryson on the legal opinion and recommended that the district should follow his advice.

OPERATIONS: Monthly reporting on ridership and the Passenger Disruption Log was briefly discussed. Mr. Dyer credited the maintenance department, while short of equipment, with doing a superlative job in reducing road calls and severity of disruption.

PLANNING: Mr. Rynerson gave a brief update on the July 18 relocation of the Springfield Transfer Point to 5th and N. "B" Streets. Mr. Davis asked that placing of benches be expedited and the staff said this should be accomplished within a week.

Mr. Dyer reported that special bus schedules were operated to accommodate the Olympic Trials and the Oregon Country Fair held in June. He noted that special consideration will be given to August activities, including the McKenzie Mountain Mix-Up, the Junction City Scandinavian Festival, and the Lane County Fair.

Mr. Dyer informed the board that David Rynerson, Planning Director, was elected by the L-COG Transportation Planning Committee to serve as its chairman for the 1976-77 fiscal year.

The general manager reported that a staff reorganization in the Oregon Department of Transportation has caused some delay in progress of the E-SATS long range plan.

Mr. Dyer advised that ODOT Administrator Robert Burco has requested, through L-COG, that the Eugene-Springfield area develop a program of bus turnouts for possible state funding. Mr. Dyer said that, although this would improve traffic flow, it would not necessarily be a transit improvement unless shelters and re-entry provisions are included.

Mr. Dyer said he had attended a legislative interim committee meeting on local financing at which ODOT presented a concept of state funding for public transportation of 50% of local share for capital improvements.

The board received a list of the most recent estimates of costs and implementation dates for projects in the biennium from the adopted Transit Development program. Mr. Dyer said the state legislature will, during the next session, decide upon any state funding for the local share of these projects.

MARKETING: A summary of the 1976-77 Marketing Plan was distributed for board information, and a description of current activities in that division.

FINANCE AND BUDGET: Monthly financial reporting was distributed and discussed. An error was noted in the July cash flow forecast and the staff was instructed to prepare a corrected forecast for distribution to the board.

The board received copies of a resolution recommending a transfer of funds in the 1976-77 budget in the amount of \$5,000 from the Printing line item under the Materials and Services category to the Advertising and Promotion line item under the Contractual Services category. At the request of the general manager, no action was taken on the resolution.

Mr. Herbert advised that there was a need to adjust certain budget line items for the closing of the 1975-76 fiscal year. Mr. Kohnen moved that the board approve expenditures in excess of line item amounts in the personal services category as follows: Accountant \$851.53, Operations Clerks \$4,170.20, Drivers Overtime \$11,315.46 and Chief Communication Clerk \$40.75, Differential and Tool Allowance \$414.11, and Partskeeper \$1,825.77, for a total of \$18,617.82. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

MOTION

VOTE

INCOME TAX: Phyllis Loobey reported that she and Mr. Bryson had met recently with representatives of the Department of Revenue to discuss the proposed income tax. She said that several changes were suggested which Mr. Bryson has incorporated in redrafting the ordinance and it has been submitted to the department for further review.

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 1: The board received copies of an amended Ordinance No. 1, providing rules for meetings of the district, which included changes recommended by Mr. Bryson. Mr. Craig requested that an alternate meeting location be included. Mr. Kohnen asked that Section 5. Executive Sessions be amended to specify the required time of notice to be given to hold executive session. Mr. Craig suggested that changes in the ordinance be indicated by a special type or underlined. The staff advised that the required public notice will be published and the ordinance will be presented at the next regular meeting, following review for further revisions by counsel.

SALARIED EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN: Copies of the published retirement program for salaried employees and an explanatory letter from Paul Hart were distributed for board information. Mr. Davis asked that an analysis be made of future budget implications. The chairman requested that additional questions be submitted to the staff by July 28 to be referred to the actuarial consultants and addressed at the next regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The chairman read a message from Mr. Booth, indicating his opposition to election of board members, and suggesting that the district's budget should be subject to the 6% limitation. In discussion, Mr. Kohnen said he believed it would be inappropriate for the board to make a recommendation to the legislature as to whether board members should be elective or appointive. Mr. Davis expressed agreement with Mr. Kohnen, but added that he still favored an elective board and said the issue would probably be pursued from other areas. Mr. Craig voiced the opinion that an elective board could be pressured by special interest groups. Mr. Davis said he believed the district was at a low ebb of credibility, but Mr. Randall expressed the opinion that the district has a good image and there is much interest and concern regarding transit. Mr. Herbert said that appointed boards can be replaced if they are not responsive.

OPEN MEETING LAW: Mr. Herbert proposed that the board instruct Mr. Bryson 1) to research and draft a proposed amendment to ORS. 162.660 which would permit evaluation of personnel to be held in executive session and which would clarify the status of news media representatives, 2) to consult with legal counsel of several other government agencies to determine in a preliminary way their interest in such an amendment, and 3) to report to the board on the above at the August board meeting. In discussion, it was the consensus of the board that research should be conducted on the possibilities and a preliminary draft prepared, but that the district should work with other interested districts and governmental agencies to effect the desired changes.

TRANSIT INSURANCE: Mr. Dyer advised that the Fremont Indemnity Company has cancelled the district's Excess Public Liability coverage and that the district's agent, Fred S. James Company, is seeking a replacement. Because of the increased premiums and small availability of companies willing to offer this coverage, he suggested that consideration should be given to self-insurance or a state program. Mr. Randall moved that the general manager be instructed to investigate and explore any possibilities for insurance relief. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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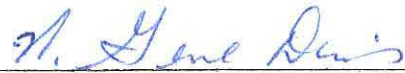
NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Dyer advised that a team of researchers from the Transportation Center at the University of Tennessee will visit the district, July 29 and 30, to obtain data for a research project with the objective to develop guidelines for policy makers and public officials to aid in the selection of short-range public transportation services.

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD: The general manager reported that, at the request of UMTA, the Transportation Research Board has invited him to attend a conference, August 15 to 17, on the State Role in Transit Management Assistance. He said the purpose is to provide advice to UMTA on policy and technical issues relating to the grant management process of State Transit Management Assistance Programs. Mr. Craig moved that the board authorize sending the general manager to this conference. Mr. Kohnen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MOTION
VOTE

AUGUST REGULAR MEETING: Without objection from the board, the chairman declared that the next regular board meeting would be adjourned from August 17, 1976 to August 24, 1976 in City Hall to enable the general manager to attend.

The meeting adjourned.


Secretary