

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

February 15, 1977

Pursuant to public notice to the Register Guard for publication on February 11, 1977, and Newservice 16 and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, 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 February 15, 1977, at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Richard A. Booth, Treasurer
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, Register Guard
Sarah McDonald, Oregon Daily Emerald

MOTION
VOTE

MINUTES: Minutes of the regular board meeting of January 18, 1977 and the adjourned board meeting of February 1, 1977, were unanimously approved as distributed.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The minutes of the February 8, 1977, meeting of Citizens Advisory Committee were distributed, and Paul Bonney reported briefly on comments by Peter Kushner that a good transit system can become a burden to an area if it is not used. Mrs. Kitzhaber requested clarification of a report from Martha Filer that it was the consensus of her neighborhood group, Whiteaker Neighbors, that the District should provide information about alternatives and activities that would contribute to attainment of the 14% transit goal.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION GRANT: Mr. Dyer reported on an article published in The Oregonian indicating that the United States Congress is considering continuation of the Economic Development Administration grant program, with a possible change of criteria that could be beneficial to Oregon communities in obtaining grants.

FINANCE AND BUDGET: Financial reporting for the month of January was distributed for board review.

SECTION 5 OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT: Mr. Dyer advised that receipt of the Section 5 funds is imminent and the District could realize a savings of interest paid on warrants and interest earned through the Local Government Pool if the

MOTION process is expedited. Mrs. Kitzhaber moved the board authorize Mr. Dyer to go to Washington, D.C. to deliver the contract, and the request for reimbursement, to Urban Mass Transportation Administration. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
OTE

MARKETING: A report of current activities of the Marketing Division was distributed for board information.

MOTION BUDGET OFFICER: Mr. Randall moved that Phyllis Loobey be appointed Budget Officer for the preparation of the FY 1977-78 budget, and the motion was duly seconded. Mr. Booth suggested that it might be more appropriate for the Accountant to hold this position and Mr. Dyer explained that the process involves the District's programs as well as finances and should be supervised by the Department Director. The question was put and the motion carried unanimously.
VOTE

RIDERSHIP: Ridership reporting for the month of January was distributed for board information. Mr. Dyer advised that Robert Bushnell of the Springfield Public Schools had inquired into the possibility of Dial-A-Bus providing school transportation for handicapped students. He said the District will work with the Springfield schools in collecting data and establishing patterns of locations, and will attempt to be of assistance.

E-SATS TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES: Mr. Rynerson gave an update on the E-SATS Technical Activities, advising that the L-COG Transportation Planning Committee has prepared a draft set of Transit System Evaluation Criteria for use in selecting an overall system concept. He said he will report further on their progress, and Mr. Herbert asked that the board be kept apprised.

TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Discussion was held on the revisions made in the Transit Development Program document to reflect the recommendations made in the review process. It was the consensus that the substance was accurate, but the language should be further revised for clarification. In discussion of A.2.c. pertaining to fares, Mr. Booth voiced the opinion that fares should be related to revenue rather than ridership, and should be raised to the maximum level that would not discourage ridership.

Mr. Craig entered the meeting.

Mr. Herbert instructed the staff to revise the Transit Development Program document to reflect the comments made at this meeting, to forward it in revised draft form to the Budget Committee, and present it for adoption at the March 15 board meeting.

RIDERSHIP SURVEY: A report and tabulation of a December on-board ridership survey, conducted by Paul Shinn, Intern, was presented for board information as an update to previous surveys. During discussion, Mr. Booth asked the staff to give further analysis of the Occupation category indicating 44.9% of the passengers were students or small business administrators.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT: Regular monthly reporting of the Transportation Department was distributed for board review. In discussion of the Passenger Disruption Log, Mr. Dallas noted that the department had implemented a program to improve the reliability of the system and that a steady decrease has been evident in downtime and road calls during the past four months.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES: Mrs. Kitzhaber reviewed the minor changes and wording of the 1977-78 Goals and Objectives as recommended in the review process.

PION
VOTE Mrs. Kitzhaber moved that the 1977-78 Goals and Objectives be adopted as presented with the additions and rewording. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

E-SATS POLICY AND FUNDING: Mr. Herbert reviewed the changes made in the memo and the Policy and Funding matrix as agreed upon by the board. Mrs. Kitzhaber expressed her approval of the covering letter.

Mr. Davis expressed opposition to submitting the material to Transportation Planning Committee of L-COG with its present content. He advised that the board will receive a letter expressing opposition from the Springfield City Council.

MOTION Following discussion, Mr. Randall moved that upon receipt of the letter from the Springfield City Council, copies would be forwarded immediately to members of the board, and a special meeting be held within five days of its receipt. The motion was duly seconded.

Mr. Randall commented that because of the misunderstandings, it would be advisable to resolve the disagreement at the earliest possible date, and suggested the possibility of a meeting between the board and the Springfield City Council for discussion. Mr. Craig voiced the opinion that the people of Springfield have been very supportive of the transit system.

VOTE The question was put and carried, with favorable vote by Booth, Craig, Herbert, Kitzhaber, Kohnen and Randall, with Mr. Davis abstaining.

Mr. Randall asked to be excused from the meeting.

Discussion followed on the draft narrative to accompany the matrix, as prepared by Mrs. Kitzhaber and Ms. Loobey. Mr. Herbert emphasized that it should convey the intent to promote coordination of progress toward the assigned goal. Mr. Booth said he believed the charts indicated the district as leading, and he did not want the board committed to these as policy directions. He suggested the board should consider if it is a forcing district or if it is a service. Mr. Kohnen observed that the memo indicates that the district understands the need for coordination of all units of government involved in transportation planning. He suggested that the narrative should be softened and in keeping with the memo, that repetition to the matrix should be eliminated, and that it should be rewritten to eliminate sub-headings and include only a brief paragraph of explanation to fit the matrix and memo. Mr. Herbert said the narrative would be redrafted for board review.

EVALUATION METHODS SUBCOMMITTEE: Mr. Kohnen reviewed the activities of the Evaluation Methods Subcommittee in submitting the first quarterly report and the continuation of developing the quantitative data as criteria for evaluating the performance of routes against the entire system and the non-urban routes. He said the subcommittee had used this data to study Routes #'s 4, 5 and 6 for its second quarterly report. He described three alternative approaches included for consideration: Alternative A. Minor Revisions, which would reallocate vehicle hours on these routes and reduce them from 57.1 daily to 55.3, and could result in increased ridership and improved system performance. Alternative B. Minimum Service, would provide a minimum level of service on these routes, with

midway results between Alternatives A and C in terms of service reduction and costs savings, but would bring lower ridership. Alternative C, Deletion of Routes #'s 4, 5 and 6, would discontinue service in the non-urban area of these routes and the areas would be taken out of the taxing district.

Mr. Kohnen said it was the recommendation of the subcommittee that the people in the affected areas should have an opportunity to give input through public hearings in their localities. Mr. Herbert said that consideration should also be given to the various transportation plans that these areas have developed and what they include about public transit before a decision is made. Mr. Davis suggested that if any of the communities held council meetings, the hearings could be included at their meetings.

It was the consensus that a public hearing should be included for the metropolitan area, but it was not determined if it should be conducted at a regular board meeting. Mr. Craig suggested that publicity could be provided to neighborhood associations for their newsletters or mailings to each household with the agenda and alternatives.

Mr. Booth commented that the economics of the issue indicate that these routes should be deleted and this should be clearly stated at the hearings. Mr. Craig replied that this would indicate that the board had already determined that the routes should be discontinued, before the hearings were held, and that many people would express their opposition to this.

MOTION

Mrs. Kitzhaber moved that the board accept the quarterly report of the Evaluation Methods Subcommittee and to investigate holding hearings in the four affected areas the last week of March. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

OPE


Mr. Craig suggested that the board designate a person to officiate in order to conduct an orderly hearing, and to have sign-up sheets for those wishing to testify.

Mr. Davis read a letter from Edward E. Rubey, hand-delivered by Mr. Rubey during the meeting, dated February 15, 1977, urging discontinuance of Routes #'s 4, 5 and 6 immediately; that lack of patronage is evident from the data compiled by the District staff and that there could be no justification for continuing to levy taxes on private employers to provide transit service to those areas. He expressed his support for the District's efforts to provide mass transit service where such service is needed and used, and said the 1977-78 budget should reflect the opposition to wasting tax monies on routes that are not justified. Mr. Herbert asked that this letter be reserved for further review by the board along with other testimony for board decision.

MOTION
VOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 686: Mr. Dyer advised that he had received a request from Tri-Met for the District's support of SB 686 extending the effective date of required accessibility of new buses to 1979. Following discussion, Mr. Craig moved that the board join with Tri-Met in support of Senate Bill No. 686. Mrs. Kitzhaber seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.


Secretary