

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

March 15, 1983

Pursuant to notice given to the Eugene Register-Guard for publication on March 10, 1983 and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lane County Mass Transit District was held at the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon, on March 15, 1983 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Janet Calvert  
Ted J. Langton, President, presiding  
Judy Nelson  
Larry Parducci  
Glenn E. Randall, Vice President  
Mark Pangborn, Acting General Manager  
Jo Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Absent: Peter M. Brandt, Treasurer  
Janice Eberly, Secretary  
Phyllis Loobey, General Manager

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Rich Ries, Executive Board Officer for Local 757, Amalgamated Transit Union, representing all LTD collective bargaining unit employees, thanked the Board for accepting the new collective bargaining agreement between ATU and LTD, which had been reached after 21 months of negotiating.

MOTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Parducci moved, seconded by Ms. Nelson, that the Board accept the minutes of the February 15, 1983 regular meeting and the VOTE March 9, 1983 special meeting. The motion carried unanimously, with Mr. Randall not yet being present at the meeting.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR EMPLOYEE PAYROLL TAX CREDIT: Mr. Langton introduced Nancy Matela, Administrative Analyst, who summarized the staff memo and proposal beginning on page 14 of the agenda packet. Ms. Matela stated that the idea for such a proposal had come out of a discussion regarding a California law which allows individuals income tax credit for purchasing fastpasses. The LTD proposal, however, would allow employers who subsidize up to 50% of monthly transit passes to deduct 50% of the actual subsidy from their payroll tax liability. The proposal as included in the agenda packet described optimistic and pessimistic assumptions for such a program's impact upon the District's revenue, ridership, and monthly pass program. Two major goals of the proposal, as stated by Ms. Matela, would be to increase ridership without reducing the District's total revenue. It would also give a direct benefit to payroll taxpayers.

Ms. Matela further stated that the employers would not have to submit more paperwork to the State--one line would be added to the present reporting form. They would, however, have to keep their own records for auditing purposes. This program would be available for employers who chose to make it a benefit for their employees. Mr. Langton had mentioned that some employers do not have good bus service and might not be equitable, and Ed Bergeron, Marketing Administrator, had suggested allowing the subsidy for families of employees in those cases. Additionally, City, County, and State employees, a large group of local employees, would not be eligible to participate.

Mr. Randall arrived at this point in the meeting.

Ms. Calvert asked if staff had approached employers to ascertain their interest. Ms. Matela stated that staff had seen interest from employers in other areas, but had wanted to approach the Board before talking to employers regarding tax credits. She also said that this particular legislation would apply only to LTD and Tri-Met. Mark Pangborn, Director of Administrative Services, added that if the legislation was passed, the program would be actively promoted to local employers.

Ms. Calvert thought that if the program didn't work, the District would not necessarily have to continue with it. Tim Dallas, Director of Operations, explained that this would be enabling legislation and that the Board would have to pass an ordinance to begin the program, and could retract the ordinance if they so desired.

Ms. Nelson asked about the added administrative costs mentioned on page 15. Ms. Matela stated that there would be no extra cost to administer the program after all. Any additional cost to the District would be for purposes of promoting the program.

MOTION

Mr. Randall moved that the Board endorse the proposal and direct staff to proceed according to their recommendation in the agenda packet. Ms. Calvert seconded the motion. Mr. Randall commented that if there are any problems with the proposal, they will come to light during the testimony to the Legislature and in talking with Tri-Met. He thought the concept was good, and that many employers would like the idea, as well. With no further discussion, the question was called and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

VOTE

CHECK SIGNING AUTHORITY: Staff distributed to the Board a new resolution which included only the titles of the Board and staff members authorized to sign checks, thus eliminating the need for a new resolution each time staff or Board officers changed. This resolution replaced the resolution found on pages 21 and 22 of the agenda packet.

MOTION

Mr. Randall moved, seconded by Mr. Parducci, that the check signing resolution be adopted as presented at the meeting. Ms. Calvert commented that this subject had been fairly well discussed previously and that the resolution did

VOTE

maintain some checks and balances and should save some staff time. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pangborn mentioned that Chapter 8, Budget and Finance, of the Board Policy Manual would be changed to show the amended check signing authority. Mr. Langton stated that changing the Policy Manual would not require a motion because the resolution just passed authorized those changes.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TRANSIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Mr. Langton called the Board's attention to the memo from Jon Hinds on page 26 of the agenda packet. Mr. Pangborn stated that the Committee members believed that the current level of service is acceptable and appropriate to the community, but that service should decrease as revenues diminish. In the long range, according to the Committee, the District should seek a broader base of support. They had recommended a possible property tax, but thought the decision should be based on changes which might be implemented by the Legislature. The Committee had also suggested that they reconvene in another year to review the situation.

MOTION

Mr. Randall moved that the Board accept the report and express thanks to the Committee members for their time and interest. Ms. Calvert seconded the motion. She then stated that, with the exception of Ken Kohlen and Joan Rich, who have been involved with transit for a long time, the Committee acquainted a new group of people with the needs of and services offered by local transit. Appreciation was also expressed for the time donated by the Committee Chairman, Jon Hinds, and several Board members stated their appreciation for the participation and helpfulness of the staff. With no further discussion, the motion carried by unanimous vote.

VOTE

APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mr. Randall and Ms. Calvert stated that they were working on finding nominees for the Budget Committee but were not yet able to make nominations. Mr. Pangborn stated that the first Budget Committee meeting had been moved to Tuesday, March 29, and that the Committee would be asked to "jump into" the issues fairly rapidly. He suggested that the Committee might be better off to work with one or two empty positions rather than have someone take his or her place in the middle of the budget season. It was decided that a special meeting would be held just prior to the first Budget Committee meeting in order for the Board to appoint members to the Committee.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING:

Legislative Update--Oregon Association of Realtors' Proposal: Mr. Pangborn explained that the District has been debating with realtors whether or not they are self-employed or employed by real estate firms. A decision had been made by the Attorney General's office that realtors would be considered self-employed as of January 1, 1984, and no rebate for previously paid payroll taxes would be made. The realtors want to have all taxes paid since 1977 repaid to them; for LTD, that would mean \$160,000 to \$200,000. A compromise to give them self-employment status for payroll tax purposes as of January 1, 1982, rather than

1984, is now being proposed. The Association of Realtors is discussing that proposal and will respond to LTD and Tri-Met. The compromise date would mean that LTD would have to repay \$30,000 to \$40,000 from 1982 payroll tax funds already collected.

Mr. Pangborn further stated that LTD, Tri-Met, and the realtors association could reach an agreement by the District's budget season, but if the issue goes to the Legislature it could be finalized as late as June or July, and the District would have to allow for contingencies within the adopted budget.

It was mentioned that Tri-Met has already put the self-employment tax into effect, and that LTD could do the same. Mr. Pangborn stated that when the Board originally considered imposing a self-employment tax, it was thought of as an equity measure, not as a means to obtain additional revenues. However, that would not necessarily have to be the reason if a self-employment tax were to again be proposed.

Ten-Cent Fare Days--April 30 and May 14: Mr. Pangborn stated that these promotions are being offered in conjunction with the District's "Each Person Counts" and ridership campaigns. He stated that the free fare week offered during the Lane County Fair brought the normally low summer ridership higher and seemed to carry over into the next months. He said staff were looking at those kinds of promotions to get people onto the buses, especially when they can be done in cooperation with other agencies.

Extension of Quarterly Bus Pass to the University of Oregon: Mr. Pangborn stated that this promotion also tied in with the EPC and ridership goals for the District. The staff memo on page 34 explains the background and estimated revenue impact of offering a \$40.00 quarterly pass to University of Oregon students. Mr. Pangborn said staff, including drivers, will be actively promoting the pass during registration week at the UO, and will be present on campus to answer questions from students and employees. He added that LTD staff will continue to work with UO staff toward obtaining a subsidy for the pass, similar to the agreement with LCC. Ms. Calvert thought the pass might help to reduce the pressure on University parking lots.

APTA Conference: Mr. Pangborn stated that several staff members, including Ms. Loobey, Mr. Pangborn, and Mr. Dallas, would be attending the American Public Transit Association's Western Regional Conference in Seattle April 9 through 14. He told the Board members that if they were interested in any of the agenda items, as listed in the packet, staff could attend those particular sessions and report back to the Board.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT A FUTURE MEETING: Mr. Pangborn stated that there would be a public hearing on possible service reductions at the April Board meeting, which is the last meeting at which the Board can take testimony on potential reductions due to reduced revenues. At the May meeting, if

appropriate, the Board will discuss how it wishes to balance the budget. Mr. Pangborn also stated that staff would be making best- and worst-case predictions for the April meeting, but the Board would not be asked to make a decision at that time, only to hear public testimony in accordance with federal regulations.

MOTION            ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Randall moved, seconded by Ms. Calvert, that the meeting  
VOTE            be adjourned. The motion carried by unanimous vote, and the meeting was  
                  adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

  
Secretary