

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

August 20, 1985

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on August 15, 1985, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the regular meeting of the Lane Transit District Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, August 20, 1985 at 7:30 p.m. in the Eugene City Hall.

Present: Janet Calvert, President, presiding  
Joyce Nichols  
Rich Smith  
Phyllis Loobey, General Manager  
Jo Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Absent: Peter Brandt, Treasurer  
Janice Eberly, Vice President  
Larry Parducci, Secretary  
Gus Pusateri

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was unofficially called to order at 7:35 p.m. with three members present. Because there was no quorum, the Board members discussed the information items on the agenda while they waited for another member who was scheduled to attend.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:** Ms. Calvert introduced Marylee Bohrer, the August Employee of the Month, a Field Supervisor who was working the evening shift and needed to get back to work. Ms. Calvert stated that Ms. Bohrer was nominated by bus drivers and, since she supervises drivers, this says something about her interpersonal skills. Ms. Calvert told Ms. Bohrer that the District depends upon people like her, and presented her check and certificate to her. Ms. Bohrer stated that it is an honor and a pleasure to work for LTD.

**LANE COUNTY FAIR RIDERSHIP REPORT:** Mark Pangborn, Director of Administrative Services, handed out a Summary of 1985 Lane County Fair Service written by Leon Skiles, Senior Planner. Mr. Pangborn explained that this information had not been included in the packet because the Fair had still been running at the time the packet was delivered. He said that this was the fourth year LTD had signed a contract with the Fair Board for special service, and that it had been a positive year for the Fair in terms of ridership. During the run of the Fair, Tuesday through Sunday, the Fair Board replaces anticipated lost farebox revenues in order to allow LTD to run the system for free. Additionally, LTD runs two shuttles, from downtown Eugene and from the River Road Transit Station, at 15-minute intervals. Ridership on the River Road Station shuttles during this time more than doubled, when compared to last year. Mr. Pangborn

said he had noticed the number of people who felt very good about LTD, and that the week's service was a very positive experience. This year was the highest ridership year ever, with 150,000 rides taken throughout the system. Last year, the total was 128,000 rides.

Mr. Pangborn called the Board's attention to the comparison of system productivity on the last page of the handout. System productivity was 30 to 40 rides per hour during the Fair, with the shuttles carrying more than 100 riders per hour. During non-Fair times, the system carries 19 to 22 rides per hour, which is a good average but quadruples on the shuttles and doubles throughout the system during the Fair. In summary, Mr. Pangborn stated that the Lane County Fair service is an excellent way for LTD to show the public its service. He added that this was the first step in getting people to drive their cars to a park-and-ride to take the bus to special events. Ms. Calvert stated that she would be interested in seeing what kind of retention of new riders there is after the Fair.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK SESSION:** Ms. Loobey talked about the first strategic planning work session, in which the Board members discussed issues of importance to the District for four hours at a dinner meeting. At that time, the Board had expressed the desire to meet twice a year in a work session, and staff were now planning the second such meeting. November was chosen because it is prior to the mid-year budget review in mid-November and ahead of the budget formulation process which begins in January. Ms. Loobey stated that the November Board meeting would be on November 19, and that Thanksgiving will be on November 28. Those present agreed that November 5 would be the best evening for them to meet.

Ms. Loobey also called the Board's attention to the memo on page 36 of the agenda packet, which listed items for discussion at the strategic planning work session. She asked the Board to consider those issues and let staff know if there were other topics which they would like to include for discussion that evening. An agenda for the meeting will be distributed on November 1.

**QUARTERLY RIDERSHIP REPORTING:** Ms. Calvert commented about the ridership graph, which was now being done on the computer. Mr. Pangborn said that in the future the graphs would be color-coded by hand to make them easier to read. There was some discussion about the statistics for the period ending June 30. The fact that person trips had increased 4.4 percent was encouraging, since the community had not grown in population. He added that lowering the weekend fare to \$.25 had increased weekend ridership but had an effect on farebox revenues. The District's efficiency has increased, with the cost per trip/patron up from \$1.32 to \$1.33, with a 4 percent increase in ridership, adding up to a less-than-inflationary increase in cost per trip. Productivity dropped 3.9 percent but was a positive figure, since service had increased 10 percent since last fall, with the new routes maturing fairly quickly and productivity growing toward the system average. Mr. Pangborn added that there is a need to focus on passenger revenues during the coming year, which will begin with an increase in passenger fares from \$.55 to \$.60 on

September 1. Another emphasis will be encouraging new patrons who began riding during the last year to continue riding the bus.

Ms. Calvert asked about last February, when ridership was higher than the previous year, but farebox revenue was lower. Mr. Pangborn stated that he would have to look at those figures in more detail in order to give an explanation. There was also some discussion about the effect of enrollment at the University of Oregon and Lane Community College on ridership and pass sales.

Dr. Smith asked about low ridership in June and July, to which Mr. Pangborn replied that summer ridership is normally down, since 40 percent of the riders during the year are students. There was some discussion about the Totally Transit Summer Pass program, and whether the marketing effort should be aimed at parents rather than the 12- to 15-year-olds themselves. Mr. Pangborn added that in the fall, a new educational program with puppets, coloring books, and other visual aids will begin in the grade schools, to help children learn to ride the buses.

There was also some discussion about the River Road Transit Station, which, Mr. Pangborn explained, staff believe will eventually be very useful as a park-and-ride. At this point, it is being used as a bus transfer station and as a "kiss-and-ride," or a place for riders to be dropped off to catch the bus. Dr. Smith thought it should be promoted as a park-and-ride when the downtown area goes from free parking to paid parking. Mr. Pangborn mentioned that the River Road Transit Station will also be promoted as a park-and-ride for service to downtown, LCC, and the UO without transferring.

**INSURANCE COVERAGE:** Although there was still no quorum, Ms. Loobey thought it might be useful to explain to the three Board members who were present where the District stood with its insurance coverage. She said that what had been approved last month was in the agenda packet as an attachment to the minutes of the July meeting. She introduced Gary Deverell, the District's Safety and Risk Manager; Mike Lewis of Tromp & McKinley, the District's insurance broker; and Randall Bryson of Bryson & Bryson, the District's attorneys.

Mr. Deverell stated that he would like to explain the difference in the current situation and long-standing practice. He first reviewed what had been approved at the July Board meeting. On July 29, the umbrella insurance carrier dropped that coverage, and no umbrella coverage is now available. The District's new plan is to go with the Differences in Coverage (DIC) insurance, with the District paying the first \$100,000 per occurrence, for a maximum of \$300,000 per year. The insurance policy would pay up to \$1 million per occurrence. Mr. Bryson stated that the only problem the District might encounter would be while doing business outside the state, in a state with no tort limit, when a lawsuit under the 1983 Civil Rights Act can be brought. Suits could also be brought in federal court within the state and not have the state law apply. These

suits would be brought for such reasons as deprivation of life, etc. Dr. Smith asked if the District could buy incidental insurance for when someone is out of the state. Mr. Lewis replied that they had been having trouble getting special coverage above those limits in the DIC, but that may change. The newest approach is to try to get additional coverage limits for automobiles, including those not owned by the District but driven by employees or the Board on LTD business. Mr. Lewis stated that he was exploring the markets around the country and expected to hear daily regarding other insurance options.

Ms. Calvert said the Board would be unable to make a decision that night because there was no quorum, but that the District really didn't have a choice in what to do, anyway. Ms. Loobey stated that the insurance issue had been brought before the Board before November because it had changed so much in just one month, and left the District with some degree of vulnerability. One issue that staff wanted the Board to be aware of was the ability to sue in federal court for the abridgement of someone's civil rights, etc. Ms. Loobey stated that state courts have upheld the tort liability limit, and the District couldn't even voluntarily pay more than the tort limit. She added stated that in the past, LTD had carried the additional insurance coverage even though there was a tort limit because the cost was so low. Governor Atiyeh had just recently vetoed a bill which would raise Oregon's tort limit to \$500,000.

**SPECIAL SERVICES POLICY:** Ms. Loobey stated that this policy has been in force internally, and would be brought to the Board for discussion and adoption at the September meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There was still no quorum, so the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with no action having been taken on any issue.

  
Board Secretary

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