

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 19, 1995

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on April 13, 1995, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District was held on Wednesday, April 19, 1995, at 7:30 p.m. in the LTD Board Room at 3500 E. 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Pat Hocken, President, presiding
Dave Kleger, Treasurer
Kirk Bailey, Vice President
Roger Saydack
Rob Bennett
Thom Montgomery, Secretary
Phyllis Loobey, General Manager
Jo Sullivan, Recording Secretary
Hannah Bradford, Minutes Recorder

Absent: (one vacancy)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Hocken called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m

ROLL CALL: Ms. Loobey called the roll.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: Ms. Hocken reported that she and Ms. Loobey had had lunch with Eugene School District Superintendent Margaret Nichols. They discussed what the school district had done following its strike that had facilitated employee cooperation and collaboration. Ms. Hocken and Ms. Loobey stated that they had gained many good ideas from that meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: There were no requests to speak.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Ms. Hocken read the item summary for Employee of the Month, Bus Operator Tim Dennis, who was nominated by 18 customers who rode his bus early every morning. The comments the customers made referred to his friendliness; his helpfulness; his driving skills, especially in the snow; and the fact that he had a smile and a "good morning" for everyone, "even at 5:50 a.m." Ms. Hocken asked Mr. Dennis to come forward and presented him with awards. Mr. Dennis read a card of appreciation from a group of riders at Sacred Heart Hospital and thanked the Board for the award and for their efforts to get service to Creswell.

APPROVAL OF IN-DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION FUND ALLOCATIONS AND CONTINUATION CONTRACTS: Micki Kaplan, Transit Planner, introduced this item, requesting action on allocating FY 95-96 funds for special transportation. She informed the

Board that Special Transportation Fund (STF) funds had been diminishing and the District's General Fund contribution to RideSource would increase to make up for lost revenues. She said this was a statewide issue. In response to a question from Mr. Bennett, Ms. Kaplan stated that the decline was approximately 2 percent a year; the projection was 7.5 percent next fiscal year. The Oregon Transit Financing package would help replace lost revenues, but currently it did not include any increase for transportation purposes.

Ms. Loobey confirmed that this service was mandated by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Ms. Kaplan explained that the agency funds portion of the budget included some Pearl Buck and Medicaid revenues. LTD contracted with Special Mobility Services to provide the paratransit service through a competitive bid process. Ms. Kaplan said the RFP process could become more competitive because the program had grown. Ms. Kaplan responded to a question from Mr. Saydack by emphasizing that it would probably not be feasible or cost-effective for LTD to take over this service, and that LTD's cost per trip figures compared favorably to other regions.

MOTION Mr. Kleger moved to approve the STF Advisory Committee recommendations to fund
VOTE in-District 1995-96 allocations. Mr.Saydack seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION, THIRD AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 35, AN ORDINANCE SETTING FARES FOR USE OF DISTRICT SERVICES: Ms. Loobey reminded the Board that this ordinance had been presented at the February meeting as part of the financing plan.

MOTION Mr. Montgomery moved, Mr. Saydack seconded to read the ordinance by title only.
VOTE The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hocken read the title of Ordinance No. 35: "Lane Transit District Third Amended Ordinance No. 35, An Ordinance Setting Fares for Use of District Services."

MOTION Mr. Saydack moved, Mr. Montgomery seconded to adopt Third Amended Ordinance
VOTE No. 35. The motion carried unanimously.

EUGENE STATION CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT AMENDMENT: Planning Administrator Stefano Viggiano explained that the District had been issued a Condition Use Permit (CUP) by the City of Eugene for the construction of the new Eugene Station at the McDonald Theatre site. One of the requirements of the CUP was that LTD contribute \$1.8 million toward the expansion of the OverPark garage in order to replace parking that would be displaced by the project. The City was currently exploring options to replace the parking at a new garage to be located on the southwest corner of 10th and Pearl, instead of expanding the OverPark. Such a change would require an amendment to the CUP. Mr. Viggiano said that staff did not object to the amendment as long as it was agreeable to the other parties involved, did not jeopardize the existing permit, and did not delay the project. He asked the Board to authorize Ms. Loobey to submit the CUP amendment request and also authorize her to retract the amendment request if it appeared that the request could jeopardize the existing CUP.

MOTION Mr. Kleger moved, Mr. Bennett seconded to authorize the General Manager to submit and, if necessary, retract an amendment to the Eugene Station Conditional Use Permit to allow replacement parking to be located at 10th and Pearl.

During discussion, staff explained that there was not yet a written agreement between LCC and the City regarding the change in parking replacement, but staff would like to have that in hand before submitting an amendment request. Mr. Viggiano also explained that an exterior elevator at the OverPark would be part of any agreement reached, to respond to concerns about security and personal safety when using the current interior elevator. Ms. Hocken asked about legal challenges. Mr. Viggiano replied that the amendment did not open the original permit for any challenges, only challenges regarding the amendment itself.

VOTE The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Loobey announced that approval had been obtained for allocation of LTD's federal Section 3 funds for the Eugene Station project, and this project was now underway. Ms. Hocken expressed thanks to Congressman DeFazio and Senator Hatfield for their help in making sure those funds were not rescinded by Congress.

FISCAL YEAR 1995-96 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP): Director of Administrative Services Mark Pangborn introduced this item, stating that the CIP would be part of FY 95-96 budget discussions, but staff wished to bring the CIP to the Board first as a separate item. He stated that staff were looking for approval for FY 95-96 only, and that future years were included for planning purposes.

By way of background, Mr. Pangborn explained that the capital budget was essentially federally funded. He presented a history of the CIP, broken down by Section 9 and Section 3 funding, describing the budget as varying widely from fiscal year to fiscal year. He said the intent was to ask for money in FY 96-97 for more buses. Mr. Pangborn explained that staff were projecting a significant change in funding ratios, from 80 percent federal funding to 50 percent. This difference would be significant, amounting to approximately a couple million dollars for the next bus purchase alone.

Six small buses were included, in the hope of trying the concept of small buses in neighborhoods. In response to a question from Mr. Bennett, Mr. Pangborn replied that allocations were not earmarked for a specific type of bus, but noted by dollar amount only. Analysis about future bus types was continuing, and the District would be able to make decisions about bus types later. He said if the District wanted to use special types of buses, such as for a bus rapid transit system, some adjustments in the amount budgeted for future bus purchases would need to be made.

Mr. Bennett commented that the expressway project, if it gained community support, could easily be a \$20 million project. He expressed desire for staff to keep this in mind when planning. Mr. Pangborn said there would be a need to look at other funding sources if that project were approved.

Mr. Pangborn noted that the Passenger Boarding Improvements section responded specifically to the Board's strategic plan. Staff would be working with the State, the County

and the Cities of Eugene and Springfield to try to build Park and Ride facilities at 58th and Main in Springfield and in the West 11th area in Eugene. Planning was beginning for a Park and Ride facility in the Coburg Road/Gateway/I-5 area, to provide express service similar to the River Road facility. Also, activity was beginning on a Park and Ride facility at the Parkway Station on Amazon Parkway in Eugene; this was to be a joint project with the City of Eugene. Mr. Pangborn told the Board that the \$5 million allocated for the Eugene Station may not all be spent. He added that the latest estimates showed groundbreaking in September of 1996, with design work and property acquisition in FY 95-96.

Mr. Bennett reminded staff that the owner of the mobile home development on the northwest side of the Ferry Street Bridge was trying to sell the property, and that LTD might want to look at the site as a potential Park and Ride facility. Mr. Pangborn responded that he was talking to the City about a possible lease arrangement at the Amazon site, and perhaps a similar arrangement would be feasible at the Ferry Street Bridge location.

Mr. Pangborn continued to Page 2 of the document, noting that security was an important emerging issue. The largest single facility item scheduled for purchase was a storage building. Other items included an accessible van and ADP hardware/software, plus a voice messaging system. He noted also the hope to add bike racks on buses, so that buses could carry bicycles on all routes. Purchase of a new radio system was a large item, and was expected to go out to bid in about eight months.

Ms. Hocken asked a question about stoplight systems for emergency vehicles; Mr. Pangborn responded that the large expense in this conversion was in the light itself, not the device that would be placed on the buses. This issue would be discussed in relation to the Eugene Station and bus rapid transit projects. Mr. Pangborn told Ms. Hocken that he would obtain information on a ballpark cost for this item.

MOTION VOTE Mr. Bennett moved, Mr. Kleger seconded approval of the Fiscal Year 1995-96 Capital Improvements Program. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION **SET ELECTION DATE FOR INITIATIVE PETITION TO RESTRICT THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE OF LTD'S MANAGEMENT STAFF:** Mr. Bennett moved, seconded by Mr. Bailey, that the Board set September 19, 1995, as the election date for the initiative petition to restrict the compensation package of Lane Transit District's management staff.

Ms. Hocken observed that this action may be inappropriate due to pending court actions. The Board stressed that it appeared to be a legal requirement to set the election date, but asked that the minutes reflect that the Board took this action only because of a legal requirement. Further discussion focused on the issue of timing for taking action.

Mr. Kleger pointed out that the letter appeared to give a deadline of July 20, and expressed a need to get clear information from counsel prior to taking action.

MOTION TO AMEND Mr. Kleger moved to amend the motion to have staff consult with attorneys about the timing of setting the date for the election, to make sure it did not conflict with court action. Ms. Loobey agreed that the information was confusing, and suggested talking with

Mr. Richards the next day, and, if action were needed, polling the Board by conference call. The Board agreed by consensus. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Kleger withdrew their motions.

Budget Transfer: Finance Administrator Tamara Weaver explained the need to take action to transfer funds because of Oregon Budget Law requirements. Implementation of the administrative salary study had caused the largest change to the budget, as well as increased legal fees.

~~MOTION~~ Mr. Kleger moved, Mr. Montgomery seconded adoption of the Resolution transferring \$38,720 from General Fund Operating Contingency to General Fund Personnel Services VOTE (\$36,320) and General Fund Materials & Services (\$2,400). The motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Board Member Reports: Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC)--Mr. Bennett reported that the proposed transportation package included significant revenue for LTD. He said the MPC had some questions about this and the issue might come up again. Ms. Hocken added that the committee had decided to support the package at its March meeting, then, in April, decided not to support it, and finally determined that they needed more information.

Willamette Valley Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (V-PACT): Ms. Hocken reported that this committee was winding down, and a report would be forwarded to the Oregon Department of Transportation in June. She said the focus had been more on alternative modes and a commitment to land use planning.

TransPlan Update Symposia Process: Mr. Kleger described proposed alternatives, stating that he had received the written summary that day. Scenarios would be presented to participating local governments. Ms. Hocken noted that the Land Use Task Force had no LTD representative; Mr. Saydack volunteered. Ms. Loobey said staff would advise LCOG of this addition and put together briefing material for Mr. Saydack.

Ferry Street Bridge North Bank Citizen Advisory Committee: Mr. Bennett reported that this committee was trying to get a recommendation together by June or July to put on the November ballot. The focus had been on discovering why the last vote failed and what could be done differently. There was interest on the committee in spreading out travel demand rather than improving only one corridor, as well as discussion about more crossings.

High-Speed Rail Siting Committee: Mr. Bailey described the process and potential sites for high-speed rail passenger and maintenance facilities. The tentative ridership report for high-speed rail use was at 160 percent of projections so far in the trial period.

Eugene Station Update: Ms. Hocken reviewed the memorandum in the agenda packet. Mr. Bennett expressed opposition to a public process for designing a project, noting that it takes a lot longer, raises architectural and consulting fees, and does not result in a better design. He added that he would support the plan, although it was not his preference. Mr. Kleger countered that he believed it was important to have stakeholders on board and that they needed to be involved in the process. He added that the committee would be strictly advisory.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): Mr. Viggiano handed out a picture of a low-floor bus, noting that these buses were easier and faster to access. He said the BRT system has many elements and different pieces would be worked on at different times as they tied in to other projects.

Service to Cottage Grove and Creswell: Ms. Loobey reported that the analysis of providing service to Cottage Grove and Creswell was progressing, and that a needs assessment would be done jointly with the cities.

Special Transportation Capital Grants: Ms. Kaplan noted that there would be a presentation and request for action on this item at the next month's meeting.

News Media Relations Training: Ms. Loobey mentioned that Board members should inform Ms. Sullivan if they were interested in this training.

Operations Summary: No questions were asked about this report.

Monthly Financial Report: No questions were asked about this report.


ITEMS FOR ACTION/INFORMATION AT A FUTURE MEETING: Ms. Loobey answered questions about boundaries in Creswell and Cottage Grove, as well as service costs and service to clients with disabilities.

Ms. Loobey announced a Business After Hours event in conjunction with the University of Oregon on May 24, asking Board members to mark their calendars. She informed the Board that they would be receiving further information.

Ms. Loobey announced that LTD's new Human Resources Administrator, Ed Rutledge, would be starting work at LTD on May 8. She provided some background about Mr. Rutledge and the hiring process.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Montgomery moved and Mr. Bailey seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.


Board Secretary