

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION

Wednesday, July 19, 1995

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on July 17, 1995, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, a special meeting/work session of the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District was held on Wednesday, July 19, 1995, at 5:30 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  
Rob Bennett  
Thom Montgomery, Secretary  
Phyllis Loobey, General Manager  
Jennifer Self, Minutes Recorder  
Jo Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Absent: Roger Saydack  
(One vacancy)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Hocken called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:** Ms. Loobey called roll.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO ORS 192.660(1)(h), TO CONSULT WITH COUNSEL CONCERNING THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF A PUBLIC BODY WITH REGARD TO CURRENT LITIGATION OR LITIGATION LIKELY TO BE FILED:**

MOTION moved, seconded by Mr. Kleger, to adjourn to an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (1)(h), to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

MOTION **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:** Mr. Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Kleger,  
VOTE to return to the work session. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

**WORK SESSION IN PREPARATION FOR MEETING WITH EUGENE CITY COUNCIL:**  
Ms. Loobey stated that the Board members had agreed to speak with their respective councilors before the work session with the Eugene City Council on July 24, 1995. She added that the purpose for inviting the Council to meet with the Board was to discuss the big picture and policy issues of how the two groups could work together. She asked the Board members to give brief summaries of their discussions with the Councilors.

Mr. Kleger stated that he and Pat Farr had been trading telephone calls and had not yet spoken to each other.

Mr. Bailey reported that Kevin Hornbuckle had said that he would speak with Mr. Bailey if Mr. Bailey wanted to "lobby him" on any issues concerning LTD and the Eugene City Council. Mr. Bailey had told Mr. Hornbuckle that he would get back to him. He added that he had met with Nancy Nathanson, and she did not have any looming issues. Ms. Hocken added that Ms. Nathanson had requested more information about Bus Rapid Transit.

Mr. Bennett reported that he had spoken with Jim Torrey, who had stated that three things were of importance to him: (1) the opening of Willamette Street and the number of buses that will run on that street; (2) Hyundai and how LTD will participate within that context; and (3) the Ferry Street Bridge in the context of spending the Federal money, access from Mill Street, and plans to widen it. Mr. Bennett added that Mr. Torrey was very supportive of a strong transit system.

Ms. Loobey said that Mr. Saydack had spoken with Laurie Swanson Gribskov, who had expressed some concern about the process of the joint meeting itself. Ms. Swanson Gribskov had conveyed that she wanted the meeting to be systematic and orderly. Further, she wanted Ms. Hocken to keep the meeting running smoothly without getting "bogged down" in any one issue. She suggested that those present introduce themselves, but that the introductions be professional. Finally, she noted that questions about Hyundai and the Downtown Station might be asked of the Board members.

Ms. Loobey stated that LTD staff had been working with City staff to develop an agenda, but LTD was ultimately responsible for the final agenda. She referred Board members to the draft agenda in their meeting packets and gave a brief overview of the items: (1) LTD's strategic vision; (2) exploration of Council/Board Goal 12 initiatives; (3) Willow Creek Basin Service Plan/Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Designation; and (4) Central Business District/University of Oregon/Sacred Heart TOD Joint Staff Task Force Promotion Plan. Ms. Loobey stated that for the final issue, LTD staff would request that the City direct a team to work on the issue of supporting more transit use by its citizens.

Mr. Bennett stated that he was skeptical of arbitrarily implementing decisions that try to change behavior. He said that he did not like the idea of making parking less available in order to increase transit use. He said that he did not think that programs such as that worked very well and he did not support them.

Ms. Hocken stated that the joint meeting would only last an hour and a half, and she would prefer to concentrate on no more than two items. She suggested Hyundai and the Ferry Street Bridge. She added that, while LTD's vision was important, she did not think it was necessary to spend meeting time reviewing it.

Mr. Bennett said that if LTD wrote a letter to the Eugene City Council concerning the Willow Creek TOD designation, with regard to Hyundai, then he did not see the importance of discussing that issue during the joint meeting.



Mr. Viggiano explained that the Hyundai project would proceed before any TOD designation could be applied to that area. He said that LTD would negotiate directly with Hyundai to determine an agreement about transit services and how it would be utilized, and that the agreement could include the City as well.

Mr. Bailey said that he was concerned that the momentum of the Hyundai issue might take over the meeting, even though it was not LTD's most pressing issue.

Ms. Hocken stated that the Board needed to determine what it wanted to discuss and set the agenda accordingly.

Mr. Kleger stated that it was important that the Board discuss the Ferry Street Bridge and, specifically, a transit-only lane. He said that the Board needed to stress that LTD wanted and needed to compete with the private auto, and without a transit-only lane, it could never compete. Mr. Bennett added that he wanted to discuss the type of corridor configuration that would allow LTD to gain a transit-only lane.

Mr. Viggiano stated that the issue of the Ferry Street Bridge was not being actively discussed because the Council had decided to use the federal money to make the safety improvements, and a new bridge project would most likely not be explored for several years.

Mr. Montgomery stated that LTD's ability to compete was the most important issue to be discussed at the meeting. He said that the Board should present to the Council that LTD needed the City's help in creating a more competitive environment for LTD. He said that the issues of Hyundai and the Ferry Street Bridge both tied into the issue of LTD's competitiveness.

Ms. Loobey asked if it would make sense to discuss the broader picture of transit infrastructure within the Eugene-Springfield community. She said that LTD needed to express an expectation that it would play an active role in the development of projects such as the Ferry Street Bridge and Hyundai. She said that LTD was not getting in the process soon enough to have an active role, and that needed to change.

Ms. Hocken asked members to state the two issues that they wanted to discuss during the joint meeting. Members agreed that the first issue should be improving LTD's competitive environment and the City's role in helping LTD achieve its goal.

Members listed the issues that fell under that heading as follows: (1) the bus right-of-way issues with Ferry Street Bridge and in general; (2) TOD designations; and (3) group pass program for downtown. Members stressed the importance of clearly stating that LTD was going to take a more proactive stance, and that it wanted to be included in the beginning of projects such as Hyundai.

Mr. Viggiano explained that the Board had never taken a position on the opening of Willamette Street and how many buses would run on the street. He asked if it was worth discussing the issue and taking a stance. Ms. Hocken stated that with the opening of Olive Street, the Board had supported the use of buses, so she had assumed that the Board would support the use of buses on Willamette Street.

Mr. Viggiano stated that it was LTD's position that both Olive and Willamette streets be designed to accommodate buses. Mr. Bennett noted that people were concerned about buses running down a decorative street. He added that he would be very happy if Eugene had a downtown in which people were busy, buses were running, and cars were honking. He said that was a "real" downtown. He said that it would be important to schedule buses on Willamette Street carefully. Mr. Viggiano stated that the buses could be phased in to the area.

Ms. Hocken stated that the one topic of "improving LTD's competitive environment" would be enough to fill 1-1/2 hours of meeting time because it encompassed so many different topics. She added that Ms. Nathanson wanted to commend both the LTD staff and the City staff for working so well together.

Mr. Bennett said that it was important to commend staff, but City staff did not seem to actively support LTD on the Bus Rapid Transit application within the Ferry Street Bridge, and it was important to make that known.

Mr. Kleger said that he wanted to recognize that there were two other jurisdictions that were important in the picture--Springfield and Lane County. He said that transit systems had a tendency to fall down when the governing bodies didn't work well together.

Ms. Hocken stated that she and Ms. Loobey would discuss the presentation of the Bus Rapid Transit discussion. She added that she did not want to have introductions because it would take up time and not much would be gained.

Mr. Bennett asked if LTD had made application for some small buses. Ms. Loobey stated that they were listed in the CIP, and Mr. Viggiano added that the money was available for the buses in the fall of 1996. He added that the buses would replace some of the bigger buses on some routes, as well as be used for new applications. Mr. Bennett stated that he wanted to see LTD take some risks and perhaps develop its own bus. He stressed the importance of creating new ways to compete and make using transit attractive.

Mr. Bailey stated that he would make further attempts to speak with Mr. Hornbuckle before the joint meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The special work session adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

  
Board Secretary