

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on September 12, 1996, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District was held on Wednesday, September 18, 1996, at 5:30 p.m. in the LTD Board Room at 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Kirk Bailey, Vice President
Rob Bennett
Patricia Hocken, President, presiding
Dave Kleger, Treasurer
Thomas Montgomery, Secretary
Mary Murphy
Roger Saydack
Phyllis Loobey, General Manager
Jo Sullivan, Recording Secretary

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Board President Pat Hocken. District Counsel Joe Richards was present for this meeting.

WORK SESSION ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: Ms. Loobey noted that staff had kept track of the issues discussed in meetings with legislators and in other discussions with the Board, and discussed those with Counsel. She said that in the past, the majority of the time staff took issues of concern or initiatives that might impact LTD to the Board, and the Board asked Ms. Loobey to keep them informed. At one point, the Board designated a committee to provide more feedback to staff, independent of the monthly Board meetings. Ms. Loobey stated that the legislative agenda could be handled in several ways. For instance, the whole Board could discuss legislative issues at its monthly meetings; the Board could designate a committee to work more closely with staff; or the full Board could hold more meetings and maintain a higher profile in legislative issues, such as by lobbying or testifying in Salem, or by working with other groups, such as the Oregon Department of Transportation, the Oregon Transit Association (OTA), or the League of Oregon Cities.

Ms. Loobey asked the Board members if they had a sense of how they wanted to work this agenda and a desired level of participation. She said that the 1996-97 agenda was greater than it had been before, with more and different pieces.

Mr. Kleger said that he would be willing to go testify at hearings and talk to legislators when it looked like it would be helpful.

Mr. Bennett asked if LTD could work through the statewide association (OTA), and Tri-Met in Portland participated, but also did things on its own. Ms. Loobey said that was correct; the Tri-Met governmental affairs staff spent a lot of time at the legislature, helping to bolster the agenda as it worked through OTA. Typically, Tri-Met put all its bills before OTA and explained to the other members if they had a stake or not, and what that would be. They also had some bills that concerned only Tri-Met.

Mr. Bennett asked if the Board would be looking at issues for which they might be able to gain statewide support, and whether the Board would be more effective presenting them to OTA. Ms. Loobey stated that it was useful to go through the state association, and the District probably would not get bills through without statewide support.

In response to a question from Mr. Bennett, Ms. Loobey explained that, often, going to testify meant just getting something on the record, and spending time before the hearing going through the halls finding what level of support might be found and who was willing to sponsor the bill or take arguments for and against and respond to those. It was important to do the preparation and let people know what the issues were. It meant being there frequently, sometimes on a daily basis.

Ms. Loobey asked how much time the Board members would be willing to spend, and whether the issues under discussion were important for staff time. Past Boards had been comfortable with a high level of independence for the general manager in these activities, but the current Board had shown that it was more interested in the issues.

Mr. Bailey asked if Ms. Loobey thought the current slate of items warranted more energy than during the last session. Ms. Loobey stated that she did not expend much energy on issues during the last legislative session, because all the principal issues were with the Oregon Transportation Financing Plan. Roger Martin of OTA and his staff spent a lot of time on that issue and the elected board issue, and Ms. Hocken and Mr. Bailey had testified regarding the elected board issue.

Ms. Hocken asked if the Board was able to give Ms. Loobey feedback quickly enough during the last session. Ms. Loobey replied that this was always one of the problems. During one session, she spent three days a week for several months in Salem. She said that sometimes things went exceedingly slowly and sometimes they moved very fast, and staff could not control that.

Mr. Saydack said it seemed that Ms. Loobey needed three things from the Board: definition of the legislative agenda; what kind of commitment the Board wanted staff to make in pursuing the agenda; and what kind of role the Board should play. Ms. Loobey stated that she was not through developing the list of issues for the Board's consideration, and did not expect Board action on the current list.

The Board then discussed several issues scheduled for the 1997 Oregon legislative session. Ms. Loobey explained that the issue in Ballot Measure 32 was to make \$375 million in lottery funds available to Tri-Met. During the special session, the legislature

passed a special transportation equity fund, in which the state would fund the north-south light rail line in Portland, and also \$375 million for transportation projects throughout the rest of the state. The money would go to cities (60 percent) and counties (40 percent), the same as the gas tax. In hearings, Senator Greg Walden said that the money could be used for transit, but nothing was written in the bill. Staff were talking about a technical correction that acknowledged Senator Walden's comments that did not get translated into technical language.

Another issue had to do with the way parking fees were considered business expenses. Staff would like the same treatment for employers who paid for bus passes.

Ms. Loobey said that there was no funding proposal for special transportation or transportation in general. She thought she may need to spend some energy on that issue.

Mr. Bennett said he had heard at a Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) meeting that there was not even enough money to take care of the existing road system. He asked if the \$375 million would continue or was a one-time source. Ms. Loobey replied that it was an amount fixed in law, and may take a few years to pay out.

Ms. Loobey offered for the Board's consideration the issue of initiative reform, since the District had to spend money on issues such as Ballot Measure 8, which had then been declared unconstitutional. She wondered if the Board would like to work toward initiative reform in coalition with others.

Mr. Bennett said he would not work to change the initiative process. He thought it would complicate LTD's message and might work against the District in others' viewpoints. He said he would want to think very carefully about doing that.

Mr. Bennett said that the key on all issues was to figure out the key players and get the right people to talk to the right legislators. He did not know that a subcommittee of the Board would be particularly effective in doing that. Aside from Board members' willingness to testify, he thought Ms. Loobey might be more effective representing the Board than the Board would be, given her contacts and years of experience. Some of the Board members may have relationships with legislators that may help, and he thought they should use those contacts.

Mr. Bailey thought that the Board should leave open the question of whether or not LTD would take some role in initiative reform. He did not share the idea that Oregon's initiative process was falling apart, but thought it would be blind of the Board to ignore the fact that it had been hit by the impact of paid signature gatherers. He thought the Board should sit as a committee of the whole on legislative work, and track the issues that were important to the District. He thought some would be very important to what LTD wanted to accomplish, such as signal preemption. He thought it would be helpful for all Board members to play a role with the Oregon legislators, because they liked to see local community decision-makers and not paid guns.

Mr. Bennett wondered if it would be possible that with permission of the Board, some individual members could take some initiative, as long as that member declared and explained ahead of time. He said that he might want to obtain the Board's permission to work the issue of signal preemption on his own time.

Ms. Hocken said that she did not want to be going to Salem all the time, but if it could be done at controlled time, she would be willing. She thought that the Board members may have to make themselves available for particular issues, and rely on Ms. Loobey's experience.

Ms. Murphy commented that Ms. Loobey had a depth of experience and the ability to explain complicated issues. She agreed that legislators liked to receive community input, and suggested that there were a number of things the Board members could do through homework to achieve buy-in that could be done locally.

Ms. Loobey also agreed that the legislators liked to hear from local decision-makers. She said she would ask for help when needed. She commented that each Board member had his or her own network and would be seeing those people at events or meetings and could discuss issues with them. She added that she would continue to refine the legislative agenda for the Board.

LABOR RELATIONS:

Selection of Designated Representative: Human Resources Manager Ed Rutledge said that he had talked with a number of people about the selection of a designated representative to help with labor negotiations. Joe Richards, of District Counsel, was from the Eugene/Springfield area and had worked with LTD on other issues. He was experienced in labor negotiations and had a good understanding of how employee-related issues worked at LTD. Staff had asked him if he would be willing and available to serve as the designated representative, and he said he would, so staff were recommending that he be appointed.

Mr. Rutledge stated that staff members and Mr. Richards had attended an international conference on labor/management relations sponsored by the Amalgamated Transit Union.

Mr. Kleger asked Mr. Richards how he felt about doing this after the fractious negotiations last time. Mr. Richards said he knew a little about that time, and had become interested when staff said they were interested in a different way of bargaining and ATU strongly urged its members to use collaborative bargaining. He added that he had only negotiated three public body contracts, but two of them had used collaborative bargaining.

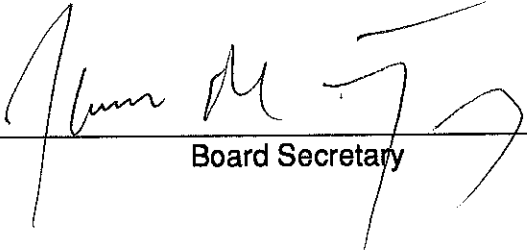
MOTION Mr. Saydack moved the following resolution: The Lane Transit District Board of Directors hereby resolves that Mr. Joe Richards be selected to serve as the Designated Representative for Lane Transit District for the purpose of conducting labor negotiations with Local 757 of the Amalgamated Transit Union as provided under ORS 243.650-782.

VOTE Mr. Bailey seconded, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION **Executive Session:** Mr. Bailey moved that the Board move into Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(d), to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations. Mr. Kleger seconded, and the Board
VOTE unanimously adjourned into executive session. Mr. Richards was present for this discussion.

Return to Regular Session: Upon motion by Mr. Saydack and seconding by Mr. Montgomery, the Board unanimously returned to regular session.

ADJOURNMENT: There was no further discussion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:28 p.m.



Board Secretary

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