

**MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, January 19, 2000

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on January 13, 2000, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District met in regular session on Wednesday, January 19, 2000, at 5:30 p.m. in the LTD Board Room at 3500 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Hillary Wylie, President, presiding  
Rob Bennett, Vice President  
Dave Kleger, Treasurer  
Dean Kortge, Secretary  
Gerry Gaydos  
Pat Hocken  
Virginia Lauritsen  
Phyllis Loobey, General Manager  
Susan Hekimoglu, Recording Secretary

Absent: None

**CALL TO ORDER:** Board President Hillary Wylie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**WORK SESSION – Springfield Station Site:** Transit Planner Micki Kaplan said that staff were reviewing a new site option, which was located just west of Site I (Les' Service Center and Canopies). It was on the south side of South A Street, between Pioneer Parkway (3<sup>rd</sup> Street) and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**MOTION**

**VOTE**

**Executive Session:** Ms. Hocken moved that the Board move into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(e), to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions. Mr. Lauritsen seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote, 7-0, with Bennett, Gaydos, Hoken, Kleger, Kortge, Lauritsen, and Wylie voting in favor, and none opposed.

**MOTION**

**VOTE**

Following the executive session, Mr. Bennett moved that the Board move back into public session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kortge, a vote was taken, and the motion passed by unanimous vote, 7-0, with Bennett, Gaydos, Hoken, Kleger, Kortge, Lauritsen, and Wylie voting in favor, and none opposed.

**Board Deliberations:** Ms. Kaplan said that the railroad site previously had been considered by the Springfield Station Steering Committee as part of a larger site I, but because Site I was a very large site, LTD staff had focused the station on the eastern end

away from the railroad property. Union Pacific Railroad and the Swaggarts, own most of Site I.

Ms. Kaplan then introduced Eric Gunderson of WBGs Architects, who presented conceptual drawings of a station on the railroad site.

Ms. Hocken asked if adding parking spaces on South A would restrict travel lanes on South A. Bus rapid transit (BRT) engineer Graham Carey replied that the travel lanes on South A would be restricted.

Mr. Carey was present to discuss pedestrian crossing issues with Site I. He displayed a drawing of options to create a traffic calming environment using curb returns that would make the pedestrian crossing shorter, bulbouts (corner curbs brought out into a lane to make parking recessed), and pork chops (strips of cement that separate the right turn lane).

Ms. Wylie asked how BRT would operate if lanes were removed for parking, and if the options presented had been discussed with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Mr. Carey said that BRT would travel on South A to Pioneer Parkway, where it would enter the station site. It would leave the station site on Pioneer Parkway East to cross over to the westbound Main Street. LTD and City of Springfield staff were preparing a joint presentation for ODOT. Results of a preliminary discussion with ODOT staff were included in the table on Page 7 of the agenda packet.

Ms. Hocken said she was pleased to see parking away from Main Street so the pedestrians would not have to walk so far.

Ms. Kaplan said that if the Board were interested in the railroad site, the Springfield Station Steering Committee would be reconvened to review the site. Also, a Level 1 Environmental Site Assessment would be conducted, and the current Environmental Assessment would be amended to include the railroad site. Ms. Kaplan also said that staff would present the information to the Springfield City Council.

Ms. Wylie said that she was happy to recommend that staff further pursue the railroad site as an option for the Springfield Station location. Other Board members concurred.

Mr. Kleger expressed his appreciation to staff for the in-depth study of the pedestrian crossing issues surrounding the South A site options.

Planning and Development Manager Stefano Viggiano commented that there were many strategies for traffic calming that were included in the table on Page 7 of the agenda packet. Those strategies were reviewed both by City of Springfield and ODOT staff. It essentially was a joint proposal of the City of Springfield and LTD staff to incorporate those strategies. One strategy that Springfield City staff wanted to further evaluate was the loss of a lane on South A Street. The City staff were comfortable with proposing and moving forward with the other strategies.

Ms. Wylie announced that Ms. Kaplan had accepted a position in Boulder, Colorado, and would be leaving LTD at the end of January. She said that Ms. Kaplan had been a

wonderful employee and someone she enjoyed working with. In addition, she was grateful for the hard work and dedication that Ms. Kaplan had devoted to the Springfield Station project. The Board members wished Ms. Kaplan the best.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** (1) Ms. Wylie asked for volunteers from the Board to assist in the planning of retirement event(s) honoring Ms. Loobey, Ms. Hocken, Ms. Lauritsen, and Ms. Wylie volunteered to work with staff.

(2) Mr. Viggiano introduced Eric Gunderson of WBGS Architects and John Lawless of TBG Architects. Mr. Gunderson said that both he and Mr. Lawless were members of the American Institute of Architects. One of the Institute's primary missions was to encourage quality design in communities throughout the country. Each year, the Southwestern Oregon Chapter had a design awards program, which served to promulgate discussion of quality design work and to grant awards to design projects that were found to be of particular merit in a community.

Mr. Gunderson said that LTD previously received awards for the Glenwood facility, Amazon Parkway, and the UO transit station. Tonight, he was honored to present a design award for the Eugene Station. Mr. Gunderson said that there were many people to acknowledge for the hard work and dedication to making the Eugene Station a reality, including past and present Board members, Ms. Loobey, and Mr. Viggiano. He presented the Board with a Merit Award for Excellence in Architectural Design for the Eugene Station. Ms. Hocken noted that the architectural firm that worked on the project had been WBGS Architects.

Mr. Lawless said that Eugene was privileged to have an organization like LTD that had made a strong commitment to good design and perpetuating excellence in its facilities, not just because it was the right thing to do, but also because it illustrated LTD's dedication to elevating transit in a community that was seeking ways to enhance the quality of life for its citizens. On behalf of TBG Architects and J.F. Alberson, the lead designer on the project, Mr. Lawless presented the Board with an Honor Award in Design Architecture for the Thurston Station. Mr. Lawless thanked the staff and the Board for their courage and commitment to the community.

Mr. Lawless noted that these two projects had been recognized for the highest awards by the Southwestern Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Ms. Wylie thanked both Mr. Gunderson and Mr. Lawless for honoring LTD with the awards. She also thanked staff for having the insight, energy, and courage to move ahead with the building of such high-quality facilities.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:** Ms. Wylie introduced Marketing Representative Michelle Geschke, who was selected as the February 2000 Employee of the Month. Ms. Geschke was hired on February 18, 1999. She was nominated by a co-worker for being innovative, accommodating, and "on top of the task" in managing LTD's Springfield Filbert Festival activities, including the parade and Kidspace sponsorship. Additionally, the co-worker said, Ms. Geschke had great ideas and a positive attitude, enjoyed what she was doing, and brought freshness wherever she went.

Ms. Geschke's supervisor, Service Planning & Marketing Manager Andy Vobora, added that during the past year, Ms. Geschke had brought enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to the department. She brought a smile to work every day. Her relationships with co-workers, community contacts, and LTD customers always were professional, but with an added personal touch.

Ms. Wylie presented Ms. Geschke with a letter of congratulations, a certificate, and a monetary award.

Ms. Geschke thanked the Board and Ms. Loobey for the honor. She said that she felt very fortunate to be employed at LTD during Ms. Loobey's last year as General Manager and would be sad to see her retire. Ms. Geschke also said that she was truly enjoying her work at LTD.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** 1) Walter Hill of Glenwood spoke to the Board about the rerouting of the #11 Thurston bus through the Glenwood area. For some time LTD had routed the #11 Thurston bus through the upper Glenwood area by using the Glenwood Boulevard loop instead of traveling east on Franklin Boulevard as it entered the Glenwood area. He said that he did not use an automobile, but relied on the bus and his bicycle for his transportation. He asked the Board to reconsider the routing of the #11 Thurston on Glenwood Boulevard rather than on Franklin through the Glenwood area.

Mr. Hill said that he was a home owner, and he also was speaking for the working people in the area, which consisted of Farwest Steel, Pape' Cat, Motel 6, Denny's Restaurant, two gas stations, the Pepsi Cola Plant, and the SaniPac area. Many of the area employees had not been aware that the bus had, for a short time, been traveling on Glenwood Boulevard, but most of those he spoke with were willing to give the bus a try. Mr. Hill was using the bus frequently and had enjoyed it. Also, there were more than 30 homes in the immediate area whose residents would benefit by the routing on Glenwood Boulevard, and the #11 would better serve the LTD employees as well.

Mr. Hill said that he was told that the Glenwood loop was discontinued because the bus could not arrive at the Springfield Station on time. He said that LTD would be doing a great service to those who lived and worked in the upper Glenwood area by continuing to route the #11 along Glenwood Boulevard. He asked the Board to revamp the bus schedule to include time for the bus to make the Glenwood loop.

Ms. Wylie noted that staff currently were in the process of reviewing the entire bus schedule for modifications that would occur in September 2000. She thanked Mr. Hill for his comments.

**MOTION**

**VOTE**

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** Mr. Kleger moved that the Board adopt the following resolution: "It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for January 19, 2000, is approved as presented." Ms. Hocken seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote, 7-0, with Bennett, Gaydos, Hocken, Kleger, Kortge, Lauritsen, and Wylie voting in favor, and none opposed. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the December 15, 1999, regular Board meeting.

**SPRINGFIELD STATION PREFERRED SITE:** Ms. Wylie said that the Board would delay a decision until staff had the time to further pursue the option of the railroad site, which was located just west of Site 1.

**SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND INCREASE:** Service Planning and Marketing Manager Andy Vobora said that the 1999 Oregon State Legislature had approved funding programmed in the Governor's budget for transportation services for the elderly and persons with disabilities. He explained that the money would be used for projects that could be enhanced as well as for some proposed new projects.

Ms. Lauritsen asked how programs would be enhanced. Mr. Vobora said that new areas could be served, operating hours could be increased, and reimbursements could be expanded.

**MOTION** Mr. Bennett moved approval of the resolution authorizing an increase of \$98,052 to the Special Transportation Fund for new and enhanced programs for the elderly and persons with disabilities. Mr. Kleger seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote, 7-0, with Bennett, Gaydos, Hocken, Kleger, Kortge, Lauritsen, and Wylie voting in favor, and none opposed.

**VOTE**

**TRANSPLAN:** Mr. Viggiano explained that the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) had agreed to proceed with the TransPlan review and adoption using the "Adopting Officials" process. In addition, they agreed to reopen the TransPlan public comment record to accept written testimony from January 25 to March 31, 2000. Each of the four adopting agencies needed to take action to reopen the comment record.

**MOTION** Ms. Hocken moved that the Board adopt the following resolution: "It is hereby resolved that the Board concurs with the December 9, 1999, Metropolitan Policy Committee consensus regarding further processing of the TransPlan Update/Metro Plan amendments and reopens the record to accept written testimony on the TransPlan Update/Metro Plan amendments from January 25 through March 31, 2000. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote, 7-0, with Bennett, Gaydos, Hocken, Kleger, Kortge, Lauritsen, and Wylie voting in favor, and none opposed.

**VOTE**

**EXECUTIVE SEARCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Mr. Kortge reported that the Executive Search Committee was recommending that the Board accept the written resignation of Ms. Loobey as contained in the LTD Board packet with the exception that item 1 regarding flight bonus miles be stricken from consideration at this time.

**MOTION** Mr. Kortge then moved the following resolution: "It is hereby resolved that the LTD Board of Directors accepts the resignation of General Manager Phyllis Loobey and approves the requests identified in numbers 2, 3, and 4 of her January 10, 2000, letter to the LTD Board Executive Search Committee, and authorizes LTD personnel to carry out these provisions on behalf of Phyllis Loobey." Ms. Hocken seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote, 7-0, with Bennett, Gaydos, Hocken, Kleger, Kortge, Lauritsen, and Wylie voting in favor, and none opposed.

**VOTE**

MOTION  
VOTE

**Executive Session:** Mr. Kortge moved that the Board move into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(f), to consider records that are exempt by law from public inspection. Ms. Hocken seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote, 7-0, with Bennett, Gaydos, Hocken, Kleger, Kortge, Lauritsen, and Wylie voting in favor, and none opposed. The Board then moved into executive session at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION  
VOTE

Following the executive session, Ms. Hocken moved that the Board return to public session. Mr. Kortge seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote, 7-0, with Bennett, Gaydos, Hocken, Kleger, Kortge, Lauritsen, and Wylie voting in favor, and none opposed. The Board returned to public session at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Kortge reviewed the general manager selection interview process that was to take place on January 21 and 22.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** a) Metropolitan Policy Committee. Ms. Hocken reported that the MPC meeting had been canceled for January. b) Statewide Livability Forum: Ms. Hocken reported that there also had been no meeting held in January. c) BRT Steering Committee/Public Design Workshops/Walkabout Input: Ms. Hocken said that Mr. Viggiano would report later in the meeting about the recent design workshop for the Phase 2, West Eugene corridor. She said that she had attended the workshop, which had been very worthwhile. There were approximately 50 people in attendance, and there were some very constructive suggestions. Ms. Wylie added that she, Mr. Gaydos, and Government Relations Manager Linda Lynch had met with Senator Ron Wyden and his aide to discuss BRT and other federal projects. d) Springfield Station Steering Committee: The Committee would reconvene to reconsider the railroad site option. With Ms. Kaplan's departure, Mr. Viggiano would assume the staff support position for the committee.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

Finance Manager Diane Hellekson said that the budget for the first half of the fiscal year was on schedule, and she had nothing significant to report. She noted that the Finance Committee would meet on Wednesday, January 26, to hold a preliminary discussion of the fare policy and to discuss budget development issues and the final version of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). She displayed the new \$1 coins the U.S. Mint was preparing to launch into circulation. It was very important that the coin be successful, as it had a much longer life span than the paper dollar bill. The U.S. Mint had recognized that vending companies and transit agencies would play a big role in the success of the coin and had released samples to those companies and agencies to ensure that machines were calibrated to accept the coin. Ms. Hellekson was pleased to report that the new coins worked fine in LTD's fareboxes and coin counting machines.

**ANNUAL ROUTE REVIEW:** Mr. Vobora reported that this year, staff had been concentrating on service fixes rather than any redesign issues because the Comprehensive Service Redesign (CSR) was underway for implementation in September 2001. However, some of the CSR issues already were becoming apparent, and staff would be making some service recommendations based on CSR research that had been conducted to date. The final list of route modifications would be presented to the Board in February and a public hearing would be held at that time.

Ms. Hocken noted that people in the community already were noticing that LTD might be reducing service, and she expected that the public hearing would draw a crowd.

Mr. Kleger asked if the dropped service hours would be replaced. Mr. Vobora said that staff were attempting to accomplish the annual route review without any addition in service hours. The cut service hours would be used as service fixes elsewhere in the system.

**NEW LTD TELEVISION ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN:** Mr. Vobora displayed the new television ads that had been introduced during the month of January. He explained the purpose of the ads and said that they would be shown during the months of January and February and again in April and May. Ms. Wylie stated that she liked the ads and was proud to be associated with LTD. Mr. Kleger said that he also was very pleased with the advertisements.

**BRT UPDATE:** Mr. Viggiano discussed the workshop that had been held on January 18 at the Lane County Fairgrounds. The purpose of the workshop was to gather comments on the general alignment of the Phase 2 BRT project before staff began to gather design ideas at the later workshops. There were approximately 50 people at the open house and approximately 60 people who attended the workshop. It was the best-attended event to date.

Two basic questions were asked of the participants: whether to locate the west Eugene terminus at Westmoreland or at the Seneca Station and which alignment to use. The majority of the people who attended the workshop preferred the Seneca Station location. There were three alignments considered for the Seneca Station: using 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, or two ways on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There was less agreement in this area. One of the groups preferred the two-way alignment on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, while another group preferred the 11<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> Avenues couplet alignment. Staff were planning to forward two alignments to the BRT Steering Committee for consideration.

Mr. Bennett discussed the issue of the BRT vehicle. He was concerned about the possibility of Phase 1 being implemented using a substitute vehicle since there currently was no vehicle design that was acceptable as the BRT vehicle. He did not think Phase 1 should be implemented until an acceptable vehicle was ready. Mr. Viggiano said that staff continued to research an attractive bus design and were contacting vehicle manufactures to determine what might be available within the current timeline for Phase 1. Staff also were working to obtain permission to purchase a European-design bus. Mr. Bennett asked what the delay was in getting that permission.

Mr. Viggiano responded that it was a lengthy process that included demonstrating that what was desired was not available in the United States. Mr. Bennett asked if staff were considering using the existing fleet in the interim. He also asked if the Board would be willing to introduce BRT with the current LTD buses. Mr. Viggiano did not think that decision had to be made at this time. There was a possibility that existing buses could be painted differently to be used in the beginning, or an interim bus could be purchased. Mr. Bennett preferred that an existing bus not be painted, but rather that the community be made very aware that the bus in use for BRT service was temporary until a more desirable bus was available.

Ms. Wylie said that she was very interested to find out from legal counsel what process was necessary to obtain a Buy America waiver. Mr. Viggiano replied that a written process already existed, and staff could provide that information.

Mr. Viggiano reported that Public Affairs Manager Ed Bergeron and BRT Marketing Representative Dan Tutt would be attending the BRT Consortium meeting in February. More information would be available following that meeting.

**REVISED BOARD ACTIVITIES CALENDARS; BUDGET COMMITTEE SCHEDULE:**

Ms. Wylie said that with the appointment of Gerry Gaydos to the Board, she had been working on Board committee assignments. The assignments were as follows:

- Finance Committee: Pat Hocken, Chair; Virginia Lauritsen, and Gerry Gaydos
- Boundary Committee: On hold
- MPC: Pat Hocken and Hillary Wylie
- Springfield Station Steering Committee: Hillary Wylie, Dave Kleger, and Virginia Lauritsen
- Statewide Livability: Pat Hocken
- BRT Steering Committee: Hillary Wylie, Pat Hocken, Rob Bennett
- Executive Search Committee: Disbanded
- Human Resources Committee: Dean Kortge, Chair; Gerry Gaydos, Hillary Wylie

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Ms. Hocken said that she had read the letter from the Amazon Neighbor Association's Transportation Advisory Group. She thought that LTD ought to take a greater leadership role in safety issues, not only with regard to bus service, but also with regard to the other alternative modes. Transit Operations Manager Mark Johnson said that he was in touch with the group and was working with them.

**MONTHLY STAFF REPORT:** Ms. Hocken asked if LTD would support the gas tax referral. She thought that Board members should be aware of LTD's position. Ms. Loobey said that LTD would be directly affected by the gas tax. A portion of the gas tax would be distributed to the cities and county to maintain the streets. LTD would be directly impacted by whether or not those streets were maintained. Ms. Lynch said that LTD had a vested interest in the transportation infrastructure, but, in the past, LTD did not take an official position. LTD could be called upon to address the issue.

Ms. Lynch further reported that an intergovernmental agreement had been signed that supported LTD's efforts to coordinate the United Front effort. Ms. Wylie and Mr. Kortge would be participating in the United Front effort in Washington, D.C.



**ADJOURNMENT:** There was no further discussion regarding any other informational items in the Board packet, and Ms. Wylie adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.



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Board Secretary