

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 15, 2003

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on January 9, 2003, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2003, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the LTD Board Room at 3500 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Susan Ban  
Gerry Gaydos, Vice President  
David Gant  
Dave Kleger (present via telephonic connection)  
Hillary Wylie, President, presiding  
Ken Hamm, General Manager  
Jo Sullivan, Clerk of the Board/Recording Secretary

Absent: Patricia (Pat) Hocken, Secretary  
Virginia Lauritsen, Treasurer

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Board President Hillary Wylie.

**WORK SESSION**

**Accessible Services Program Update:** Accessible Services Manager Terry Parker used a PowerPoint presentation to provide an annual update on the Accessible Services program and its focus for the next budget year. LTD's Accessible Services Program is responsible for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for fixed-route and paratransit (*RideSource*) services and administration of the Special Transportation Program, which is a network of services for the elderly and people with disabilities. Ms. Parker discussed program costs, service and ridership increases, and strategies to influence ridership behavior. She reviewed the recommendations made in a study the previous year and the response to those recommendations that were made after discussion by the Special Transportation Committee. She also showed how the Transit Hosts and Transit Training programs had resulted in substantial dollar savings for LTD by keeping potential *RideSource* use on the fixed route.

Ms. Ban asked what other partnerships the program was considering. Ms. Parker briefly discussed a possible partnership with McKenzie-Willamette Adult Day Health Care. Their program had a need for more service and had started an early-onset Alzheimer's program for more active people. She said that if LTD had a vehicle to lease, it might be possible to make arrangements for them to take on some of the *RideSource* trips serving that program.

Mr. Kleger asked about the status of the 600-series buses (the AVS buses used for the Breeze service). Ms. Parker said that a prototype lift should be installed on one bus by late January or in February as a test. If successful, lifts would be installed on the rest of the buses.

Mr. Kleger asked about the ride refusal rate on RideSource. Ms. Parker said that the rate for all trips was extremely low—less than 1 percent.

**Commuter Solutions Program Report:** Commuter Solutions Program Manager Connie Bloom Williams used a PowerPoint presentation to provide an update on the Commuter Solutions program. She noted that in 1994 the Board created an alternative transportation program, which was implemented in 1995 and had become a model program for cooperation among local jurisdictions. She explained that in the current year, LTD had provided about \$5,000 as one-fourth of the grant match for the program. Other partners providing the rest of the match were Lane County and the Cities of Eugene and Springfield.

Ms. Williams discussed information from a comprehensive Employee Transportation Survey. She discussed the impact of the group pass program on bus ridership, changes in single-occupant vehicle use and bus ridership and the reasons for the changes, and other data from the survey. She also noted that the important role of TDM had been reflected in the adoption of the local area's transportation plan (TransPlan). The Commuter Solutions Program's current goals were included in the agenda packet for the January Board meeting.

Ms. Wylie asked about the shuttle possibilities in the Gateway area, working with the Gateway merchants. She had been thinking that a downtown shuttle might be needed when the Springfield Station moved across a busy street. Ms. Williams noted that the shuttle that the merchants were talking about really was the precursor to bus rapid transit (BRT) feeder routes.

**Preparation for 2003 Legislative Session:** Government Relations Manager Linda Lynch presented the likely agenda for the District at the 2003 legislature, which was summarized in the agenda packet for the meeting. This included preserving the state's commitment to transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities at the level it was at the end of the 2001 legislative session; seeking further state funding for public transportation, specifically for fleet replacement; and supporting measures that implement strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled in single-occupant vehicles. She said that the potential was good that federal flexible funds might be a good source for fleet replacement.

Ms. Wylie asked about "pay as you drive" (PAYD) insurance. Ms. Lynch explained that it would provide drivers an option to declare to their insurance companies how much they would drive each year. The legislation would offer tax credit incentives to the insurance companies to offer a lower rate to those who drove fewer miles.

Ms. Lynch explained some funding possibilities being discussed that would mean that the State was taking a step beyond minimal funding levels. She noted that the Governor's budget did not say at a program level what he was thinking about, so that was yet to be seen.

**Break:** Ms. Wylie called a brief break at 6:33 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 6:45 p.m.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH:** Transit Operations Supervisor Shawn Mercer was introduced as the February 2003 Employee of the Month. He was nominated by a guest who appreciated how Mr. Mercer went out of his way to buy a bolt and fix a wheel after it came off her scooter at a bus stop. Transit Service Manager Rob Montgomery told about Mr. Mercer going out of his way to find a homeless man who had been wringing out his socks at an LTD shelter during a drenching rain, and giving the man a pair of his own boots and some socks. Mr. Mercer was praised for his kindness, his serving heart and giving spirit, and the way he helped others on a daily basis. Ms. Wylie presented Mr. Mercer with his achievement award, monetary award, and pin, saying that the Board appreciated his efforts toward the guests and friends of LTD. Mr. Mercer said that it was an honor to receive this award, and that in his job he did many interesting things, some not so fun, so he very much liked the rewarding moments when he could help someone else. Mr. Hamm said that it was important in the industry to find people with a serving heart and spirit, and he saluted Mr. Mercer for setting a good example for everyone else to learn from.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** Lucas Murphy of Springfield said that he rode the No. 11 bus, and wanted to complain bitterly about the reduction in service during the last year. He said that this route lost 24 buses per day, from 82 to 58 buses, and that the buses were extremely crowded, especially in the afternoon. He said that during rainy, foggy weather, when people were standing in the aisles, he was unable to see out the front window to see where to get off. He said that from Springfield to Eugene was a long ride, and reducing services from six times an hour to four times an hour made the ride practically unbearable. He had heard people commenting about others who would not ride anymore. On Sunday evening, the buses stopped running early and there was no way to do anything in Eugene and get back home. LTD's planners had explained to him that the service cuts were made because of the financial situation, but he thought that Springfield had taken an unwarranted hit. He hoped that the Board would consider even five buses per hour, and had hoped to hear feedback about possible improvements.

Ms. Wylie thanked Mr. Murphy for his comments and said that they would be taken into consideration.

MOTION

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** Mr. Kleger moved that the Board adopt LTD Resolution No. 2003-001: "It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for January 15, 2003, is approved as presented." Mr. Gaydos seconded, and the resolution was passed by unanimous vote, 5 to 0, with Ban, Gant, Gaydos, Kleger, and Wylie voting in favor and none opposed. The Consent Calendar was composed of the minutes of the December 5-6, 2002, Board Strategic Planning Work Session; minutes of the December 18, 2002, regular Board meeting; and the reappointment of Russ Brink to the LTD Budget Committee to a term beginning immediately and ending January 1, 2006.

VOTE

**BRT PUBLIC ART:** Planning Technician Joe McCormack explained that proposals had been solicited for public art for Phase 1 of the BRT project. He discussed the request for proposals (RFP) process, and used PowerPoint to show the proposed platform design. He explained that the platforms would be very constrained, with little space for art, which

was the biggest reason that the railings were considered for functional artwork. Using the railings also would provide an opportunity for both LTD guests and public passers-by to experience the artwork.

An Art Selection Committee was formed in September. It included a few members of the BRT Steering Committee, including Board members Gerry Gaydos and Pat Hocken. The District received eight proposals—six focused on the handrail area and two for free-standing art—and the committee narrowed the selection to its three top choices. At a second meeting, the committee interviewed the artists and saw models of their art, and then selected two proposals for further consideration. The two finalists were local artists with artwork installed in town, so the committee took a tour to view the art, and then decided to recommend artist Lin Cook and her proposal. The committee liked the color she used and her proposal to use a different design at each station, with some different colors and textures. It would be durable art, and Facilities Maintenance Manager Charlie Simmons had liked her choices of paint and materials. The Art Selection Committee recommended her artwork to the BRT Steering Committee, who also liked her proposal and recommended that the LTD Board approve it. A safety concern had been raised, so the artist would make sure that the openings in the artwork complied with safety standards.

Mr. Gant asked about oversight by engineers. Mr. McCormack explained that the architects would follow the regulations for handrails, etc. The artwork actually would be set six or eight inches in from the handrail. Mr. Gant also asked if skateboarders would be able to use the top of the railing, or if the artwork could be damaged by spray paint. Mr. McCormack replied that he did believe that the top of the railing would not be conducive to skateboarding, and that the paint would be similar to automotive paint, so there was a paint remover that could be used without damaging the art, which also would be covered by a clear coat.

MOTION Ms. Ban moved that the Board adopt LTD Resolution No. 2003-002, “Resolved, that the LTD Board of Directors approves the artwork proposal presented by artist Lin Cook, and recommended by the BRT Steering Committee.” Mr. Gaydos seconded, and the resolution  
VOTE passed by unanimous vote, 5 to 0, with Ban, Gant, Gaydos, Kleger, and Wylie voting in favor and none opposed. Mr. McCormack added that there also would be an art process for the Springfield Station. Staff hoped to have a recommendation ready for the Board at its February meeting.

**NAMING THE BRT SYSTEM:** Public Relations Representative Sue Aufort summarized the second process to select a name for the bus rapid transit system. The BRT Naming Committee had been renewed, with the addition of Board members Susan Ban and Gerry Gaydos, as well as Pat Hocken, who had participated on the first committee. The committee had worked with consultants Funk/Levis and Cappelli Miles Wiltz Kelly (CMWK). The BRT Steering Committee had recommended approval of the name the previous week. Now the Board was being asked for approval.

Kathy Wiltz of CMWK said that, following a Board request for additional community review, the name also had been discussed with staff at the Eugene and Springfield Chambers of Commerce, the 5th Street Public Market, PeaceHealth, the Ulum Group, and

LTD. The committee reviewed the criteria and identified four names for consideration. Smaller groups and creative teams from the consultants' offices also went through the process and identified other names. Seven finalist names were discussed, and the group agreed on the final selection to present to the Board: **EmX**. Ms. Wiltz showed what the name could look like on the side of the vehicle, and said that it had a lot of graphic and promotional opportunities. Participants also felt that it honored the local history, since a former name of LTD had been Emerald Transportation.

Ms. Aufort said that a trademark search had been conducted and LTD had received a written opinion that use of EmX should be fine and recommended a state trademark registration rather than a federal trademark.

MOTION VOTE Mr. Gaydos moved LTD Resolution No. 2003-003: "Resolved, that the LTD Board of Directors approves EmX for the BRT system as recommended by the BRT Steering Committee and the BRT Naming Committee." Ms. Ban seconded, and the resolution passed by unanimous vote, 5 to 0, with Ban, Gant, Gaydos, Kleger, and Wylie voting in favor and none opposed.

#### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**Board Committees:** Ms. Wylie made assignments to various LTD Board committees as a result of vacancies created by Mr. Melnick no longer being on the Board.

**Board Reports:** Ms. Wylie noted the change in the written report, as requested by the Board members. A brief written report on the most recent meeting was included in each segment of the report, so it would not be necessary to report on each meeting unless there was something important to add. She did ask Mr. Gaydos to provide a more in-depth report on the January Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. Mr. Gaydos said that Lane County Commissioner Bill Dwyer had been named Chair of the MPC. The major discussion at the January MPC meeting was whether the local area should form an Area Commission on Transportation (ACT), or not, as mentioned at the December 2002 Board meeting. A matrix would be developed to show the process used to adopt the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) recommendations and compare that with what ACT would do, to see if there were any gaps in the process. Ms. Wylie would represent the LTD Board on the subcommittee studying this question, and each participating government needed to appoint a citizen member by the February 6 subcommittee meeting. One suggestion for LTD's citizen member was Terry Connolly, the government relations staff member at the Eugene Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gaydos had described the position to him and asked if he might be interested, but had not asked him to participate at that point. Ms. Ban said she would support Mr. Connolly as the Board's representative. She said that he followed these MPC processes and understood the breadth of the issues very well. With Ms. Wylie participating, there would be LTD representation from both Eugene and Springfield. Mr. Gaydos asked if the Board members had recommendations for other transit-friendly persons who might be willing to volunteer. Board consensus was to ask Mr. Connolly to participate. If he said no, then Mr. Gaydos and Ms. Wylie would work together to find another participant.

**Region 2050 Meeting:** Ms. Ban reported that a Region 2050 Advisory Committee meeting had been held the previous evening. She had not been there, but LTD Senior Strategic Planner Lisa Gardner had. The mayor of Coburg had been named chair, and staff were beginning to hold charrettes to look at the region. Discussion of an official LTD member might be moved back on the agenda.

**Monthly Financial Report:** Finance and Information Technology Manager Diane Hellekson handed out the financial report at the meeting. She stated that without the loss of payroll tax revenue by refund, which previously was reported to the Board, the General Fund would be on plan for the first six months of the current fiscal year. The appeal of the refund was proceeding, and a scheduling conference call with the Tax Court was scheduled for February 13. She said that LTD was looking at a substantial positive variance in Special Services. In-lieu-of payroll taxes receipts were up largely due to the vitality of the University of Oregon. Gas prices, and all fuel prices, were increasing, but LTD should finish the year on budget because costs during the first half of the year were lower than budget.

**LTD Local Activity Participation:** Mr. Hamm handed out information that the Board had asked for regarding the cost of District participation in or sponsorship of local activities and events. The Board was interested in whether the activities served the mission of the District. Many had been curtailed or eliminated in the past two years because of LTD's financial constraints. Staff had been heavily scrutinizing what the District was being asked to do, and Mr. Hamm believed that the remaining events had community benefit and should be continued. After a brief discussion, the Board was satisfied that the current activities and sponsorships had value to the District and its community partnerships. They requested no changes at that time, and reserved the right to do other things in the future that seemed to be good activities for the District.

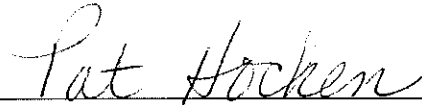
**BRT Update:** Regarding Mr. Gant's earlier question about vandalism, Assistant General Manager Mark Pangborn said that an interesting point about artwork was that other cities had found that the more something was apparent as artwork, the less likely it was to be vandalized. He stated that the BRT Phase 1 project was proceeding through final design. He added that the final details were the most complicated, such as a complex set of rules regarding the trees along the corridor, the underground placement of utilities, and scheduling construction in coordination with other projects along the corridor.

**Springfield Station:** Mr. Pangborn said that LTD had been granted access to the Union Pacific Railroad site to perform a Level II environmental assessment and had begun that process. Petrochemical products had been found, so the next step was to go through the process to evaluate remediation requirements. Joint development was moving ahead, with a realtor working in the market to find out what kind of business people would want to have at the station.

Mr. Hamm provided an update from a telephone call he received that day from Director of Maintenance Ron Berkshire, who was in the Netherlands negotiating with APTA regarding the purchase of BRT buses. He said that the vehicle schedule that LTD received that day was a bit alarming because of the unavailability of some products that were to go

into the hybrid-electric vehicles, especially the flywheels. That would mean delivery of the vehicles during the fall of 2005, which was too late for BRT to begin service in 2004. Mr. Hamm said that he had instructed Mr. Berkshire to do what needed to be done to get buses on the road in 2004, even if that meant using a battery pack and then converting later. There would be some requirements to test once the buses arrived in Eugene, such as the magnetic guidance system. Mr. Hamm said that part of APTS's schedule was not unreasonable, but LTD needed to find a way to shrink that schedule by working through the issues with APTS.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Kleger expressed his thanks to the Board and staff for putting up with his health problems, and said he hoped to be at the next meeting in person. There was no other discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Hocken". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Board Secretary

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