

MINUTES OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

May 2, 1978

Pursuant to public notice to the Register Guard for publication on April 21, 1978, and the Springfield News, a meeting of the budget committee of Lane County Mass Transit District was held at the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon, on May 2, 1978, at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

<u>Board members</u>	<u>Appointed members</u>
Richard A. Booth	George Baker
Jack J. Craig	Paul Bonney
Daniel M. Herbert, President	Tom Denning
Kenneth H. Kohnen, Vice President	Mary Lou McCarthy
Ted J. Langton, Treasurer	Shirley Minor
Carolyn Roemer, Secretary	Robert Moulton, Chairman, presiding
	Fred C. Dyer, General Manager
	Phyllis Loobey, Budget Officer
	Mavis Skipworth, Recording Secretary

News media representatives:

Marvin Tims, Register Guard
Catalina Ortiz, Springfield News

Absent:

Glenn E. Randall

MOTION
VOTE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Robert Moulton was elected chairman of the budget committee and Carolyn Roemer was elected secretary by unanimous vote.

MOTION
VOTE

MINUTES: Minutes of the March 28, 1978 budget committee meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

BUDGET MESSAGE: Phyllis Loobey, Budget Officer, presented the budget message, stating that in accordance with committee direction, the fiscal year 1978-79 budget proposal being presented was based upon two premises: the first, a Base Budget essentially representing current programs, and the second, representing optional programs which include minor improvements to Dial-A-Bus, Sunday and Night Service, additional personnel, locally-funded capital expenditures and an Instructors Training Program. She noted that the Capital Reserve Fund in the proposal with last year's allocation matches the \$371,000 made available by the Legislature for capital expenditures but does not provide for any additional capital reserve funding. She said that while all of the optional program elements are worthy of funding, together with the Base Budget the expenditures would exceed available resources. She asked the committee to determine the extent to which any of the optional programs would be funded and to review and determine the expenditure level represented by the Base Budget.

DIVISION BUDGETS: Ms. Loobey then presented Division budgets and explained line item expenditures projected for each division to operate at current service level.

BASE BUDGET: Ms. Loobey distributed copies of a Base Budget for fiscal year 1978-79 in the amount of \$6,977,513 reflecting projected costs for operating at current service and the 1978-79 increment of Capital Grant III. She explained

each line item projected expenditure, advising that wages of contractual employees could not at this time be accurately projected as the present three year contract is ending and negotiations are currently in progress for a new contract.

OPTIONAL PROGRAMS: Ms. Loobey said that cost of eight additional personnel was estimated at \$149,459. This would include two Parts Clerks to properly staff an improved control program and a purchasing agent to administer a disbursement program, as recommended by the auditor. An increased marketing program was projected at \$44,100, additional Park 'n Ride Site leases at \$600, and a Safety and Training Instructor Program at \$8,092.

Four Dial-A-Bus service alternatives were presented for consideration by the budget committee indicating different levels of evening service. The staff recommended Alternative 2, to provide evening service two days a week through 11:00 p.m. in addition to current service, at a total cost estimated at \$430,009.

Three Sunday Service alternatives were shown for committee consideration. Mr. Rynerson noted that the Transit Development Program recommends improved Sunday and holiday service within the Eugene/Springfield area, and Alternative 2 was recommended by the staff, expanding to a 12 bus fixed route Sunday service at an increased cost of \$63,900.

Cost estimates for evening service improvements, extending 30 minute headways on urban routes by three hours, together with the existing daytime and evening service was projected at \$325,000 annually. The staff suggested that revenue forecasts have not indicated a capability to implement this program in fiscal year 1978-79.

SCHEDULE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Mr. Booth suggested the committee meet next after the May 23 primary election, saying he believed if the income tax does not pass, it would show that the public is not interested in the district's program. Mr. Herbert said he did not agree, and that the income tax would not affect the 1978-79 budget.

MOTION
VOTE

Mr. Craig moved to hold the next budget committee meeting on May 17, and Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried with favorable vote by Baker, Bonney, Craig, Herbert, Kohnen, Langton, McCarthy, Moulton and Roemer, and opposed by Booth, Denning and Minor. It was the consensus to schedule additional meetings for May 30 and June 6.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: Mr. Herbert spoke of the importance of accumulating funds during the coming year for local share in the purchase of rolling stock under Capital Grant III in 1980.

The chairman asked for direction from the committee on additional information they wished the staff to prepare for the next meeting. Mr. Booth said his main concern was in the personal services salary and hourly pay figures; that expenses must be controlled and this is the area of greatest expenditures. Mr. Dyer advised that Cascade Employers Association is presently assisting in determining recommendations for salaried employees, and that negotiations are currently underway for contract employees.

Mr. Baker suggested that a subcommittee could be appointed to review salary schedules. Mr. Moulton appointed a subcommittee of Mr. Kohnen, chairman, Tom Denning and George Baker to study what percentage of increase would be appropriate for non-contractual employees, including cost of living, and to

bring recommendations to the next meeting. Mr. Booth said perhaps a certain number of dollars rather than percentages would be appropriate.

Mr. Herbert asked for additional information on the benefits the district could receive from marketing research included under the Optional Programs, and for comparisons with comparable industries.

Ms. McCarthy asked if there had been research on the need for evening service of Dial-A-Bus; who needed it, where they are going, and how much call for it. Mr. Rynerson said the staff is working on a forecast of demand.

Mr. Langton said he did not believe the marketing budget is presently adequate. He added that he believed the percentage of expenditure versus revenue for Dial-A-Bus evening service was ridiculous and he would prefer to extend marketing to promote ridership rather than respond to a small group of riders on evening service.


Mr. Kohnen said he concurred with including increased marketing programs and was interested in the benefits that would be realized if additional monies beyond those included in the Optional Programs were budgeted for marketing. Mr. Langton said he was interested in receiving more detailed information as to specific marketing programs included in the Optional Programs.

Mr. Booth commented that he would prefer to have the budget committee members lead the meeting rather than the staff, that when the staff gives the presentation first, it hinders the committee from setting the tone of direction and he believed the budget committee should ask questions and the staff respond. Mr. Moulton explained that the statutory requirements had been complied with at this meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Mr. Moulton opened the meeting for public comment and there was no response.

MOTION
VOTE

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Kohnen moved to adjourn the budget committee meeting to May 17, 1978, at 7:30 p.m. in the Eugene City Hall. The motion was seconded by Mr. Langton and carried with favorable vote by Baker, Bonney, Craig, Denning, Herbert, Kohnen, Langton, McCarthy, Minor, Moulton, and Roemer, and opposed by Booth.


Secretary