

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

ADJOURNED MEETING

July 25, 1978

Pursuant to notice given to the Register Guard on June 20, 1978, to the Springfield News and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, an adjourned meeting of the board of directors of Lane County Mass Transit District was held at the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon, on July 25, 1978, at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Richard A. Booth, Secretary
Jack J. Craig
Daniel M. Herbert, President, presiding
Kenneth H. Kohnen, Vice President
Glenn E. Randall
Carolyn Roemer
Fred C. Dyer, General Manager
Mavis Skipworth, Recording Secretary

News media representatives:

Janine O'Neil, Register Guard
Liz Peeples, Springfield News

Absent:

Ted J. Langton, Treasurer

MOTION

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded that minutes be approved as distributed for the regular board meeting of June 20, 1978, the adjourned board meeting of June 23, 1978, the adjourned board meeting of June 30, 1978, and the special board meeting of July 10, 1978.

AMEND

Mr. Booth asked that an addition be made to the minutes of July 10, 1978 to indicate that he was not in agreement with the results of the board subcommittee mentioned by Mr. Herbert. Mr. Herbert then moved to amend the minutes of that meeting, Page 6, paragraph 5, by the following addition, "Mr. Booth said he was not in agreement with the results of the board subcommittee referred to by Mr. Herbert." Mr. Kohnen seconded the amending motion. Mr. Craig objected to changing the minutes, stating that the minutes must be an abbreviation of discussion, that not all comments can be included, and he believed it would set a bad precedent. Following a brief discussion, the question was put on the amending motion and it carried unanimously.

VOTE

VOTE

The question was put on the motion to approve the minutes, as amended, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: The chairman stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive comments from the general public concerning the District's proposed capital grant application to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration for \$5,406,244 to purchase replacement vehicles and additional property, and to

implement Transportation Systems Management projects and other miscellaneous project expenditures. The chairman opened the public hearing and asked for comments.

Clark Cox, 1085 Patterson, said he was a member of Citizens Advisory Committee and West University Neighbors but was speaking for himself. He spoke in support of the grant application as it would provide for needed equipment, including smaller buses that could be used for low ridership routes, and the large buses included would replace old equipment and resolve many maintenance problems.

Richard Hansen, 2744 Tomahawk Lane, expressed concern over inclusion for funding of traffic pre-emptive devices if drivers were allowed to disrupt traffic control. He noted that the signals at Valley River Center work well and he would be concerned about disruption. Mr. Dyer responded that there would be restrictions on usage and the devices could not be installed without the approval of general jurisdictional governments.

The chairman asked if there was further testimony. There being no response, he declared the public hearing on the capital grant closed.

MOTION

Mr. Randall moved that the board give approval for the General Manager to submit a Section 3 Capital Grant application, as distributed to the board, to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. The motion was duly seconded.

Mr. Booth said that in light of the present examination being made of the transit district, he believed it would be premature to submit the application pending a more thorough resolution of direction being made for the district; that he could see no justification to interrupt the flow of auto traffic in the area, and he believed the ratio of large to small buses was too high. Mr. Randall observed that the number of small buses included in the application was a step in the right direction.

Mr. Herbert noted that the new vehicles were intended for replacement of older buses which have taken twice the cost of maintenance as the recently acquired new vehicles. He said he was satisfied that this grant would return federal tax monies into this community.

Mr. Randall referred to the federally mandated accessibility of new vehicles and asked if there was not present consideration of rescinding that requirement. Mr. Dyer advised that to date no change has been made in those regulations.

Mr. Booth said the board should give consideration to Mr. Hansen's concern of traffic pre-empting devices; that the board ignores testimony with which it does not agree and defends what it has already decided to do.

Mr. Hansen said the district should get the approval of the cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County prior to submitting it in the grant. The staff explained the steps required of jurisdictional approval prior to installation of the pre-emptive devices.

Donna Neal of 1819 Fairmount asked if those funds could be used for another purpose should the pre-emptive device not be approved. Mr. Dyer explained that a grant amendment could be submitted for a substitute but the process would require board action.

Stuart Barr of Willamette Industrial Distributors Association asked if the board had sought out public reaction to traffic pre-emption and bus drivers controlling their traffic. Discussion followed on the importance this issue has as a part of the T-2000 plan. Mr. Booth said if any of the audience had reservations about the direction of that plan, they should seek a change.

Joe Weimer of 1810 Harris spoke of a serious pollution problem in the area. He said his personal philosophy includes having free buses and to tax cars, that cars are hurting the public and buses are not.

VOTE The question was put on the motion and carried with favorable vote by Craig, Herbert, Kohnen, Randall and Roemer, and with Booth dissenting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Joe Weimer spoke in favor of obtaining bus service to the airport and of the need by instructors, students and employees. He presented a petition containing signatures of 24 people who said they would use the service if it were available.

Clark Cox expressed the opinion that the service was undoubtedly needed but the resources were not available to implement the service, and he had concerns about it competing with the present limousine service. He said he supported such service as he was interested in connecting all modes of transportation.

Mr. Cox said he would have concerns about service reduction as it would cause ridership to fall and businessmen would then want further reductions. He said the area is facing pollution problems and will be low on petroleum sooner or later and should have a well-established bus system. He observed that everyone should learn from the 1974 gas shortage experience and make a positive effort to increase ridership.

Stuart Barr, 3215 W. 11th, stated that diesel fuel is being thrown into the air by empty buses and to tie that to ridership.

John Nolan of 560½ West Centennial spoke in support of airport bus service. Mr. Weimer suggested diverting the Junction City bus to the airport initially seven or eight times daily. Mr. Barr requested that the board be given details as to the exact needs of the petitioners.

The staff was directed to give the issue further study and report to the board.

There being no further comments from the audience, the chairman closed that portion of the meeting.

FINANCE AND BUDGET: Regular monthly financial reporting was presented for board information

MARKETING: A report of current activities in the Marketing Division was presented for board information.

MOTION
VOTE

LABOR AGREEMENT: Upon motion by Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Craig, the board members unanimously approved the following resolution:

Be it hereby approved that the labor agreement between the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 and Lane Transit District for the period July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1981 be approved.

Mr. Craig said he believed the negotiator and the members of the union had worked together to come up with a good contract, well in line with the national inflation objectives of the Carter administration.

Mr. Herbert read the following letter sent to the board from Irvin H. Fletcher, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Lane County Labor Council, AFL-CIO:

"The Lane County Labor Council re-affirms its support for the Lane Transit District and its goals of quality service to the community and congratulates them on their reasonable contract settlement with its employees. We take exception to the Chamber of Commerce and other business group's unwarranted attacks upon the LTD management and its employees. We challenge the business community of Lane County to seek a responsible solution to the problems that beset mass transit in Lane County."

RIDERSHIP REPORTING: Ridership reporting for the month of June was distributed for board information.

1978 ANNUAL ROUTE AND FALL SCHEDULE REVIEW: Mr. Rynerson advised that a number of proposed changes have been deleted as a result of passenger and employee input; that publication of a new system map will be delayed until January due to the minor nature of September changes, production scheduling problems, and uncertainty over potential service cuts.

INCOME TAX ELECTION ANALYSIS: The staff presented a breakdown of the precinct results of the Income Tax election, indicating the service area separately from outside the service area.

EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE REDUCTIONS: The board was advised that, in response to the board's action on the budget last month, the staff is presently preparing a work program for evaluating alternative service reductions. Mr. Dyer recommended that, in order to expedite compilation of data for board decisions, the board authorize a position of Transit Development Specialist as a substitute for one of the two partskeeper positions approved. Mr. Booth suggested that such action be deferred for results of the examination by the governor's office. Mr. Craig said he believed that was presumptive, as the district is operated by the general manager, with the board setting policies, and until heard differently, should continue about its business. Mr. Randall observed that, should the results of the governor's study recommend changes in the district, there could be greater need for an additional planner than a partskeeper. Mr. Kohlen said he had no objection to making that substitution and, referring to possible service reductions, said he would favor finding other ways to reduce expenditures. Mr. Booth said those persons testifying did not wish to cut service but to transfer the buses from inefficient routes for use on routes that would build ridership.

MOTION Mr. Randall moved that the board approve a Transit Development Specialist be hired instead of one partskeeper. He explained that one of the complaints heard was that there are presently too many people in the maintenance staff, and that there is a need to accelerate planning. Mr. Craig seconded the motion. Ms. Roemer said she was in agreement and the board should allow the general manager to do what needs to be done. The question was put and carried with VOTE favorable vote by Craig, Herbert, Kohnen, Randall, and Roemer, and opposed by Booth.

MOTION Mr. Booth moved, and seconded by Mr. Craig, that a Citizens Advisory Committee be appointed as described in the memo by Mr. Herbert, included in the agenda material, to study and evaluate the district's maintenance program; committee members to include Glenn Randall as chairman, Ted Langton, Robert Elfers, and three citizen advisory members experienced with heavy vehicle maintenance management, appointed as follows: one each selected by Randall and Langton, one selected jointly by Randall and Langton; staff members to include Fred Dyer and Tim Dallas; the Committee Charge to 1) review existing maintenance operations, facilities and costs of LTD's Maintenance Division, 2) review LTD maintenance requirements with respect to similar operations in other public and private operations, 3) provide a written report containing recommendations and expected results regarding (a) efficiency - utilization of personnel, equipment and materials and supplies, (b) effectiveness - meeting set standards of performance, (c) economy - cost estimates for implementing recommendations, including related offsets, (4) present report to the board at its regular meeting on September 19 or at a special meeting not later than October 1. Messrs. Booth, Craig and Kohnen expressed support for the motion. Mr. Herbert assured that any meetings of that committee would be open to the VOTE public. The question was put on the motion and it carried unanimously.

OPERATIONS REPORTING: Regular monthly reporting of the Maintenance Division was presented for board information.

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES: The board was advised that officials from the U.S. Department of Transportation would be visiting the district on August 2 and 3.

ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT: Mr. Herbert recalled that five weeks ago he had advised the board that he would resign the office of president effective as of this meeting and presented a memo stating his resignation.

Mr. Craig nominated Kenneth Kohnen for the office of president of the board.

Mr. Booth said he wished to prevail upon Mr. Herbert to remain as president until December 31. Mr. Herbert said that due to other commitments he would not have the time to devote to that office, and his decision had not been made hastily.

MOTION Mr. Randall moved that nominations be suspended to act upon the resignation of Mr. Herbert. Mr. Booth seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

MOTION Mr. Randall then moved to accept the letter of resignation with the board's heartfelt thanks to Mr. Herbert for his service and with sincere regrets that he chose not to continue as president as of the adjournment of this meeting. The motion was duly seconded. Mr. Kohnen and Mr. Craig expressed their appreciation VOTE to Mr. Herbert. The question was put and carried unanimously.

MOTION
VOTE

Mr. Craig moved that nominations for president be closed and a unanimous ballot cast for Kenneth Kohnen. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

MOTION
VOTE

Mr. Craig nominated Mr. Herbert for the office of vice president. There being no further nominations, Mr. Craig moved to close the nominations and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. Herbert for vice president. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

AIRPORT SERVICE: Mr. Booth referred to the petition presented by Mr. Weimer requesting service to the airport, and said he would support that service if it would increase ridership. In ensuing discussion, the staff was instructed to prepare a report on the ridership that could be generated, if limousine service would be adversely affected; and if there are differing circumstances now than when previously studied; the report to be presented at the next meeting.


Secretary