

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

September 19, 1978

Pursuant to notice given to the Register Guard for publication on September 14, 1978, to the Springfield News and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the district, the regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of Lane County Mass Transit District was held at the City Hall, Eugene, Oregon on September 19, 1978 at 7: 30 p.m.

Present:

Jack J. Craig
Daniel M. Herbert, Vice President
Kenneth H. Kohnen, President, presiding
Ted J. Langton, Treasurer
Glenn E. Randall
Carolyn Roemer
Fred C. Dyer, General Manager
Eileen Mugglewortz, Recording Secretary

News media representative:

Jan DeBlieu, Eugene Register Guard

Absent:

Richard A. Booth, Secretary

PUBLIC HEARING: SECTION 5 APPLICATION: Mr. Kohnen called for public comment concerning the proposed application for Section 5 Operating funds. Upon a second request for public testimony with no audience response, he declared the hearing closed.

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE #14: After a brief explanation of the proposed rate change of the employers payroll tax included in Ordinance #14, the chairman opened the floor for public testimony.

Gene Davis, 734 Summit Boulevard, Springfield, stated that he was very much in favor of the proposed lowering of the tax from .0054 to .0050, and felt that it showed a measure of good faith that efforts are being made to reduce expenditures.

Dick Jones, 45 Sunset Drive, Eugene, read a statement prepared and distributed to board members from Emerson Hamilton, President, Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce. The statement included a unanimous resolution by the Chamber's board of directors endorsing the proposed reduction of the payroll tax.

With no further audience response, Mr. Kohnen declared the public hearing closed.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Gene Davis commented on an article recently published in the Register Guard concerning the Citizens Advisory Committee on Quantitative Objectives. Speaking on behalf of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, he said the Chamber felt slighted that they have no representation on this committee. He told the board that someone would be available to serve if they chose to assign a representative.

MOTION MINUTES: Minutes of the regular board meeting of August 15, 1978, and the
VOTE adjourned board meeting of August 29, 1978 were unanimously approved as distributed.

APPROVAL OF SECTION 5 APPLICATION: Mr. Langton asked how this application compared to last year's application. Mr. Merrell reported that it was higher this year by approximately \$300,000. Mr. Kohnen asked what would tend to cut back on this amount and Mr. Dyer explained that an ending fund balance not designated as capital reserve, carried over into the next fiscal year, could lower the amount of Section 5 funds for which the district would be eligible.

Mr. Randall left the meeting.

MOTION Upon motion by Mr. Herbert, seconded by Mrs. Roemer, the board approved the
VOTE following resolution with favorable vote from Craig, Herbert, Kohnen, and Roemer, and opposed by Langton.

"Be it hereby resolved that the General Manager is authorized to submit to the Urban Mass Transportation Administration an application for operating assistance for FY 78-79 in the amount of \$980,499."

Mr. Randall returned to the meeting.

ORDINANCE #14: Mr. Kohnen noted that copies of Ordinance #14 had been distributed to all board members and additional copies were available for interested persons. He was advised by Mr. Dyer that the ordinance was to be read by title only and that a public hearing would be needed at the next meeting.

MOTION Upon a motion by Mr. Herbert, seconded by Mr. Langton, the board unanimously
VOTE agreed upon reading of the ordinance by title only. Mr. Kohnen read "Ordinance 14. An ordinance imposing an excise tax on employers, providing for administration, enforcement and collection of the tax, terminating the application of Ordinance No. 12."

MOTION A further motion was made by Mr. Langton and seconded by Mr. Herbert for
approval of the first reading of Ordinance #14. Mr. Herbert commented in reference to a statement read by Mr. Jones regarding the payroll tax growth rate in the first quarter of FY 78-79 as being 37.2% Mr. Herbert said he believed it to be an overreaction to project such an increase and he further believed that the amount of decrease of the tax rate from .0054 to .0050 was a realistic response to actual conditions that the board should be taking action on.

Mr. Dyer told the board that the figure shown on page 65, paragraph 3 of the agenda notes should read \$3,731,482, not \$3,173,482.

Mr. Craig stated that he felt this was the wrong time to be cutting taxes and that these funds are needed if the district is to continue full transit service. He stated that in his opinion the people to be hurt if cutbacks are necessary will be elderly, poor, and handicapped. He favored putting the proposal on the ballot for a vote of the people of the community.

VOTE The question was put and carried with favorable vote by Herbert, Kohnen, Langton, Randall and Roemer, and opposed by Craig.

Mr. Herbert asked that the chairman confer with the district's legal counsel to verify the right procedures for the hearings and reading of this ordinance.

RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR STRAUB'S LETTER: Mr. Craig expressed his concern about Mr. Langton and Mr. Jones both serving on the Citizens Advisory Committee on Quantitative Objectives since they work together and it could appear to the

public that the committee would thereby lose its objectivity. He stated that there may be a conflict of interest as mandated by the Ethics Commission for the State of Oregon. He felt that Mr. Jones should not serve on this committee until this has been clarified.

Mr. Langton responded that he and Mr. Jones are co-workers, having a common employer, and that this is their only common interest.

Mr. Kohnen reported that he would check with the Ethics Commission for clarification and, at the request of Mr. Langton, would make the work relationship very clear to the Commission.

Mr. Craig expressed his concern as to the relationship between the responsibility of the board members to the people of their districts, and the intervening of the governor in board decisions. He said he felt this to be of serious concern and asked that the chairman check with legal counsel for advice.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Craig, that a Springfield Chamber of Commerce member be permitted to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee on Quantitative Objectives, as well as a representative from the University of Oregon student body, Lane Community College study body, the Gray Panthers, a representative from the Eugene Neighborhood groups, and a representative for the handicapped.

AMEND

Mr. Craig moved to amend the motion to have the committee limited to three board members, and representatives from the Springfield and Eugene Chambers, University of Oregon student body, Lane Community College student body, the Gray Panthers, Eugene Neighborhood groups, and handicapped. Mr. Craig further stated that the committee would not be so big as to be unwieldy, would receive valuable community input, and could make objective recommendations. The amended motion was defeated with a favorable vote from Randall and Craig, and opposed by

VOTE

Herbert, Kohnen, Langton, and Roemer.

Mr. Kohnen told the board that when the original committee had been appointed, it was with the intention of hearing testimony from all interested community groups.

VOTE

The question was put on the main motion and was defeated, with a favorable vote from Craig and Randall, and opposing votes from Herbert, Kohnen, Langton, and Roemer.

MOTION

A motion was made by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Craig, that a letter be sent to the governor in the form of the draft included in the agenda notes. Mr. Herbert asked if there would be another letter and Mr. Kohnen replied that there would not be another sent until the committee had something to report. The

VOTE

motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dyer reported at this time that the proper procedures had been followed regarding the reading of Ordinance #14; that a second reading will occur at the October board meeting and adoption would also be possible at that meeting.

Mr. Craig indicated his intention to make a motion at the next meeting and requested that a resolution be prepared to refer Ordinance #14 to the vote of the public.

EUGENE AIRPORT SERVICE: David Rynerson pointed out to the board the Lee Flight Technology Program listed on page 70 of the agenda material should read LCC Flight Technology Program and that the left hand column of the graph should read with the numbers 0-50. Mr. Rynerson also reported that this service would provide service to employees on Airport Road, LCC students, and airport patrons; that if the service were provided, it should be as a separate route, running on an hourly basis; that it is yet to be determined if it would run on a six or seven day schedule, as there are no classes and less employment on Saturdays and Sundays.

Mr. Kohnen questioned the need for frequency around 5 and 6 p.m. Mr. Rynerson stated that although the chart indicated employees coming to work, it is not representative of students or employees getting off work. Mr. Kohnen asked if this would be an express service from the Eugene Mall to the airport and Mr. Rynerson stated that although it would not be express, it would take the shortest path between the two points, and would pick up passengers on 6th and 7th Avenues. Mr. Kohnen asked how revenue and costs compared with other suburban routes, and Mr. Rynerson reported that although it was slightly above average for non-urban routes, it was below the system wide average. Mr. Herbert asked about projected rides per hour and Mr. Rynerson reported that this figure was twelve rides per vehicle hour.

Mr. Langton questioned the impact on the Airport Limousine Service. Mr. Kohnen reminded the board that their purpose was to approve sending the report to the Airport Commission and the Limousine Service for their information and comment; that the board is seeking information from them to see if this type of service would meet their needs, what conflicts would exist, and possible advantages to the airport by having transit service.

Mrs. Roemer asked how long a trip from LCC would take to arrive at the airport and Mr. Rynerson estimated the time to be between 45-50 minutes. Mr. Herbert stated his endorsement of sending the report to the commission, making it clear, however, that the board does not endorse or imply approval. He said additional information was needed concerning, 1) car travel time versus bus time, 2) employee/student use, as both groups seem well served by a carpool situation, and 3) would cost actually be less than driving. Mr. Herbert further asked what would be the most convenient, efficient mode. Mr. Rynerson stated that the multi-modal planning is necessary for efficiency, and said he believed that transit service would be more ideal for the LCC students than for the employees.

Mr. Herbert stated that the board should not ask the Airport Commission to report if this is a good use of resources, but rather how the suggestions might work with respect to their needs. Mr. Craig stated that a market survey of airport patrons should be a deciding factor. Mr. Langton voices his concern regarding the possible severe effect on the limousine service.

MOTION Upon motion by Mr. Craig, duly seconded by Mr. Langton, the board unanimously approved the following resolution:

"Be it hereby moved that the Eugene Airport Service staff report be accepted and that the General Manager is authorized to forward the report to the Airport Commission and the Airport Limousine Service for review and comment."

RED CROSS GRANT APPLICATION: The board was advised by Mr. Dyer that the Red Cross no longer intends to submit a grant application and the chairman advised that this item would be stricken from the agenda.

MOTION

EUGENE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: A motion was made by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Langton, that the board approve the following resolution:

"Be it hereby approved that the Lane Transit District submit an application for membership to the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce."

Mr. Emerson Hamilton stated that the dues for membership would be approximately \$600.00 annually. Mr. Randall asked him of procedures of becoming a member of the Chamber. Mr. Hamilton explained that an application is submitted and reviewed by the Chamber board of directors before acceptance. Mr. Herbert asked if by becoming members, the district would be eligible for representation by a board member on the Chamber Transportation Committee. Mr. Hamilton explained that there was an ad hoc transit committee and said this would be possible. Mr. Herbert also asked if other transportation agencies were members of the Chamber and was told that Dorsey Bus Company, Southern Pacific Railroad and two airlines are members.

Mr. Craig voiced his support of membership to the Chamber and said the communication and understanding that would follow would be helpful to both parties. Mr. Randall also spoke in support of the motion. Mrs. Roemer said it was a great idea if the money could be found for membership dues.

VOTE

The board unanimously agreed upon adoption of the resolution.

MOTION

Mr. Randall moved that the district investigate the possibility of becoming a member of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Duly seconded by Mrs. Roemer, the motion was unanimously carried.

VOTE

CASCADE EMPLOYERS SALARY STUDY: Fred Dyer reported that this report will be presented at the October 17 board meeting.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MAINTENANCE: Mr. Randall indicated that he had heard that a letter had been sent to the governor calling the Maintenance Committee a farce. Mr. Randall assured the board that he would investigate whether such a letter had been sent. He further stated that the committee consisted of dedicated people who were all working very hard at finding possible means to efficiently lower operating costs.

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, Mr. Kohnen presented Mr. Herbert with a miniature bus, and expressed to him on behalf of the board their appreciation for his dedication and service to the District. Mr. Herbert told the board that through his interactions with the staff, he found them to be dedicated, highly professional, and an honor to be associated with.

The meeting was adjourned.



Secretary