

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 1980

Pursuant to notice given to the Register Guard for publication on September 11, 1980, 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 16, 1980 at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Richard A. Booth, Secretary
Daniel M. Herbert, Vice President
Kenneth H. Kohnen, President, presiding
Robert C. Loomis
Glenn E. Randall
Carolyn Roemer
Phyllis Loobey, General Manager
Mavis Skipworth, Recording Secretary

News media representatives:
Marvin Tims, Register Guard
Jennie Greenleaf, KBDF/KZEL

Absent:

Ted J. Langton, Treasurer

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Elizabeth Hopla expressed objection to the current Veneta schedule. She said the residents of that area had advised the board of their needs at a public hearing but that the schedule implemented did not meet those needs. She asked that a 10:25 a.m. schedule replace the current 11:20 a.m. schedule to accommodate seniors, students and working people. She presented a petition bearing 45 signatures requesting resumption of the 10:30 a.m. service, Monday through Friday, from Veneta to Eugene. She said the board had disregarded the more than forty letters sent in previously by citizens and those people who had come to the public hearing. Ms. Hopla also told of her difficulty in receiving the new schedule information prior to implementation of the fall service changes.

Clark Cox, 1085 Patterson Street, encouraged those citizens to seek a change in senior fares through the next legislature in order to have more schedules.

David Long, 310 Mill Street, Apartment 20, Springfield, spoke against any increase in fares at this time. He said the district must remain competitive with individual automobiles and if the base fare were raised to 65¢ it would be as economical to drive an automobile. He noted that bus travel takes more time, so an economic advantage must be maintained.

Wayne Schweppe said he was a working senior citizen and was opposed to paying full fare during commuter hours. He said he believed that seniors, as well as students, should receive a special rate.

There being no further public comment, that portion of the meeting was closed.

MOTION MINUTES: Upon motion by Dr. Loomis, seconded by Ms. Roemer, the minutes of the August 19, 1980 regular meeting and the September 10, 1980 adjourned meeting were unanimously approved by Herbert, Kohnen, Loomis, Randall and Roemer.

VOTE

OCTOBER 1 FARE INCREASE: Addressing the board's earlier decision to consider a 65¢ base fare effective October 1, 1980, Paul Shinn reported that accumulated data indicates ridership is down more than anticipated and although fare revenues were expected to increase, they are not as high as expected. He said staff would like to monitor ridership further through September and October before initiating any change in fare.

MOTION Dr. Loomis moved that the board not consider raising the fare at this time. Mr. Herbert seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with favorable vote by Herbert, Kohnen, Loomis, Randall and Roemer.

VOTE

Mr. Randall said that information the board has received indicates that if the fare during July and August had been 50¢ the district would likely have realized as much revenue as at 60¢; that if more people could have been served at that rate, the district had an obligation to do so. He said he felt strongly that the district should be committed to serving the public as well as making enough money to operate the system.

Mr. Randall moved that as of January 4, 1981, the fare structure be based on 50¢ for Zone 1.

Mr. Kohnen advised that legal counsel has indicated it is in order to bring up matters not placed on the agenda.

Mr. Herbert said he was in agreement with Mr. Randall's philosophy but believed it would be better at this time to continue monitoring ridership statistics and give consideration to what adjustment in the fare could be made and the resulting effect on ridership.

Mr. Randall said he found it unbelievable that the board would refuse to give relief to those people who need it most, the poor, the young and the elderly. He further said he felt it was obvious that a 50¢ fare would generate as much revenue and increase ridership and the board should not wait another few months but should show more concern for those people who must ride public transit.

Dr. Loomis said he shared Mr. Randall's concern but preferred that the board act on facts and not on invalid assumptions, and should take the time to gather more information.

Mr. Booth entered the meeting.

Mr. Kohnen concurred that ridership and revenues should be carefully monitored to ensure that the level of fares remains as reasonable as possible but produces the necessary revenues to operate the system.

Mr. Randall's motion died for lack of a second.

ACTION PLANS: Ms. Loobey called attention to summary tables of departmental action plans included in the agenda packet and referred to a full action plan displayed on the wall for board information. She described the planning process followed to effect interdepartmental coordination and accomplishment of programs on a timely schedule. She said those programs include, among other things, accessible service, service redesign, property/facilities improvements, contract negotiations and specific areas in pre-planning, coordination, testing, training and implementation. Responding to question by Dr. Loomis of how closely staff adheres to the timetable, Ms Loobey said staff attempts to remain on schedule as closely as can be controlled but if external events affect the timeline, revisions are required.

Dr. Loomis asked why the bus rehabilitation program was dropped. Ms. Loobey explained that disagreement with the union arose over whether or not portions of the work involved was to be done entirely by subcontract or a portion done inhouse; that the district would be sacrificing portions of its preventive maintenance and wished to subcontract all of the rehabilitation.

APTA CONFERENCE: Ms. Loobey advised the she would be attending the annual conference of the American Public Transit Association in San Diego between October 5 and 9, and that Tim Dallas would be acting general manager during her absence.

MARKETING UPDATE: Ed Bergeron reported that the Marketing Division has established a distribution outlet for passes and tokens through 7-Eleven stores in the Springfield-Eugene area. He spoke of the benefits of this contact made possible through Southland Corporation, saying that as the program progresses people will have a greater awareness of where to look for information and purchase passes and tokens.

REPORTING: Regular monthly reporting for finance and budget, ridership and operations was presented for board information. Ms. Loobey called attention to the safe driving graph and noted a vast improvement in the number of safe miles driven.

BANK OF RECORD: Ms. Loobey advised that a special meeting may need to be called prior to the October 21 regular board meeting for action in establishing a new bank of record.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned.


Secretary