

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT
ADJOURNED MEETING

June 30, 1981

Pursuant to notice given at the June 16, 1981, regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Lane County Mass Transit District, an adjourned meeting of the Board was held at the Eugene City Hall, Eugene, Oregon, at 7:30 p.m. on June 30, 1981.

Present: Richard A. Booth, Secretary
Daniel M. Herbert, Vice President
Kenneth H. Kohnen, President, presiding
Ted J. Langton, Treasurer
Robert C. Loomis
Carolyn Roemer
Phyllis Loobey, General Manager
Jo Sullivan, Recording Secretary

News Media Representative:

Ann Bradley, KEZI-TV

Absent: Glenn E. Randall

SENIOR FARE STRUCTURE: Mr. Kohnen stated that senior fares at the present time are limited to 10¢ during the mid-day and off-peak hours, and free on evenings and weekends, but that seniors pay maximum fare of 60¢ during peak hours, so there are three different fares involved. He said there is legislation before the Oregon Legislature that would change this, and it is anticipated that some of that legislation will pass. The staff recommendation, he said, is to increase the senior fare to 25¢ at all times.

Mr. Kohnen went on to say that staff had conducted two hearings to gain input from seniors on this subject, and that senior riders had been surveyed; the results of these hearings and survey are included in the agenda packet. Also, the staff forecast of the financial impact of such a fare change is on page 2 of the packet. Mr. Kohnen explained that if the staff recommendation to change senior fares to 25¢ is approved, and if the enabling legislation is passed, the fare change would become effective with the service changes in September.

Mr. Kohnen then declared the public hearing on the matter of senior fares to be open.

Frank A. Sparrow, of 1568 West 24th Place, Eugene, thought that when LTD asked for input from the public, sometimes that input doesn't matter. He said he thought there is no respect for the senior citizen and that LTD was doing its best to take the last cent from the seniors. He mentioned the many thousands of hours of volunteer work performed by seniors, and said they use the buses to help others. He thought seniors should not ride the buses between 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., but the 10¢ fare should be imposed at all other times. He also suggested that if the new LTD fare passed, seniors should either receive the minimum wage or quit volunteering at schools, the city, the county, and other projects.

There was no other testimony on senior fares, and Mr. Kohnen declared the hearing on senior fares to be closed.

MOTION

Mr. Booth moved that the Board adopt the staff recommendation, which is that a senior fare of 25¢ at all times be implemented with the inception of new service in September, pending passage of state enabling legislation. Dr. Loomis seconded the motion.

Mr. Herbert commented that most of the seniors the Board heard from respected the need for a modest fare and that most supported the 25¢ fare. He said he was prepared to support the motion based on the evidence found in the agenda packet.

Dr. Loomis stated that he was also impressed with the involvement of seniors in going to Salem to help staff lobby for the legislation. He said he thought those seniors were community leaders and spoke for their peers, and for that reason he was prepared to support the motion.

VOTE Mr. Langton called for the question, and the motion carried on a unanimous vote.

FISCAL YEAR 1981-82 BUDGET: Mr. Kohnen stated that a copy of the proposed budget for FY 81-82 had been included with the agenda packet, and that it reflected all of the changes made during the budget process. He said there were two actions required: (1) adoption of the budget in the form presented or with any changes Board members might wish to make; and (2) adoption of the resolution to appropriate funds, which provides the authorization to spend the funds for the purposes set forth in the budget.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR 1981-82 BUDGET: Mr. Kohnen further stated that the meeting had been advertised and notices had been published, and that this was the last public hearing on the budget. He explained that copies of the budget had been available and were still available for public inspection. He declared the public hearing on the budget for FY 81-82 to be open.

Mr. Sparrow spoke again, relating the senior fares to the budget, and said that LTD and all other public agencies should reconsider the number of "chiefs" and take care of their own departments first, before considering the budget. He

commented that it was a savings to take his own car rather than to ride the bus at 60¢, and also mentioned that although LTD has a good bus system, the downtown transfer area is less than desirable.

There was no other public testimony, and Mr. Kohnen declared the public hearing on the Fiscal Year 1981-82 budget to be closed.

MOTION Mr. Booth moved that the Board adopt the budget as distributed. Dr. Loomis seconded the motion.

Mr. Langton asked for a brief explanation of the risk management fund because it seemed to him to be an unnecessary exercise if the District pays premiums and does not save any money. Paul Shinn, Director of Administrative Services, agreed that the money would be put into that fund and if premiums are paid, they will be paid out of that fund. He said staff were working with the new broker to determine at what level the District should self-insure, if at all, the first year, which was described as a transition year on this fund.

VOTE The question was put, and the motion carried on a unanimous vote.

MOTION Mr. Booth moved that the Board adopt the appropriating resolution, found on page 10 of the agenda packet (copy attached). Mr. Langton seconded, and the VOTE motion carried unanimously.

MOTION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT OF SURPLUS FUNDS: Mr. Booth moved that the Board adopt the staff recommendation, which had been handed out at the beginning of the meeting (copy attached). Dr. Loomis seconded the motion.

Dr. Loomis commented that the Board had talked about this action for some time. Mr. Shinn said that the last resolution authorizing investment of surplus funds was for one specific time, but either a blanket resolution or a resolution for each time was needed, and the District had already lost some opportunities to invest by not having made such a blanket resolution.

VOTE The question was put, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Booth commented that the Budget Committee had recommended that the Board use any excess revenues to offset payroll taxes, and that he thought that should be formally sent to the Board from the Budget Committee at some time.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Ms. Loobey stated that the previous day the Senate Transportation Committee had passed the senior fare bill with a "do pass" recommendation. The had changed the bill from the way it was submitted to the House Transportation Committee, by sunsetting the whole issue of senior fares and prolongs the date until December, 1982. She said that bill would have to go to a conference committee, and the District was hoping to get that committee to change the date to an earlier time.

Ms. Loobey informed the Board that the hearing scheduled for the previous evening on HB 2048 and HB 5018, the Governor's in-lieu-of tax measure, had been cancelled because Senator Ripper is in the hospital. She added that she is guardedly optimistic about passage of those bills.

Ms. Loobey went on to say that the LTD Subcommittee of the Eugene Chamber of Commerce had met to discuss the issue of the real estate tax, and made a recommendation that the District seek an amendment to the payroll tax statute so that self-employed persons would be subject to the payroll tax. They suggested that that legislation be sought in the next legislative session, since it would probably be difficult to pass such statutory legislation so late in this session.

Ms. Loobey also said that she thinks there are enough favorable votes in the Senate on senior fares, depending on who is on the Conference Committee. Mr. Booth said he would be happy to talk with local Republicans on those bills, and would also talk with the newest member of the transportation committee.

Ms. Loobey thought the District should closely monitor HB 2600, also called the Lawyers' Relief Act. If passed, attorney's fees would be awarded in addition to Worker's Compensation awards, and the cost of litigation would probably skyrocket.

MOTION
VOTE

There was no further business. Mr. Booth moved the meeting be adjourned, Dr. Loomis seconded, and the motion carried on a unanimous vote.


Secretary

