

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on January 13, 2006, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held its regular monthly Board meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2006, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the LTD Board Room at 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Gerry Gaydos, President, presiding
Susan Ban, Vice President
Debbie Davis
Dean Kortge
Mike Eyster
Ken Hamm, General Manager
Jo Sullivan, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

Absent: David Gant, Secretary
(one vacancy)

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Gaydos called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL – General Manager Ken Hamm called the roll. Ms. Davis was not yet present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Mr. Hamm added a *ConnectOregon* grant application to the agenda as an action item.

BOARD CALENDARS – Ms. Ban said that she would be unable to attend the January 25, 2006, Region 2050 meeting. Mr. Eyster agreed to attend in her place.

Assistant General Manager Mark Pangborn invited Board members to an event in recognition of Ken Hamm on February 8, 2006, at the Hilton Hotel.

WORK SESSION

FY 2006-07 Pricing Plan – Director of Marketing and Planning Andy Vobora reviewed the history of fare policy changes, which had departed from the practice of making small incremental changes annually to making major changes in cash fare, tokens and pass prices. He said that no changes had been made over the past several years in consideration of the economic downturn and the Board Finance Committee was now recommending a return to incremental changes on a rotating basis among fare categories. He drew the Board's attention to the Finance Committee recommendations set forth in his memorandum of January 18, 2006. He said a comparison of the District's fares with its peer group indicated that cash fares were in the

upper half and pass pricing was somewhat below the average. He highlighted proposed changes in the Fare Policy.

Mr. Gaydos said he often heard from people that the farebox recovery should play a larger role and asked that the policy better articulate the balance between fare increases and the need to avoid ridership decreases.

Mr. Eyster remarked that he had noticed when riding the bus that not everyone paid or showed identification when boarding, although in some cases that might be because they were daily riders and the driver knew them. Mr. Vobora said the training was that everyone showed a fare or paid a fare. He agreed that in some cases drivers knew the passengers and said there was a spectrum of enforcement approaches among drivers, but most did a good job of understanding the role of the farebox and educating people about the correct fare.

Mr. Gaydos asked if the Board's decision that EmX would initially be fareless was reflected in the policy. Mr. Vobora said the decision was not articulated in the policy so much as in the pricing plan document.

Mr. Gaydos said that decision should be formalized because the Board eventually would need to adopt a policy for EmX fare machines. Mr. Vobora said the decision could be addressed under the policy section related to fare promotions and set forth in the pricing plan.

Mr. Gaydos asked if there were special arrangements for the Olympic Trials. Mr. Vobora said that service would fall under the special service policy and special service pricing. He said the Finance Committee or Service Planning and Marketing Committee should discuss Olympic Trials service issues, such as any assumptions made around budgeting for transportation.

Mr. Hamm said that federal funds had been available to Salt Lake City for hosting the winter Olympics and funds might also be available for communities hosting Olympic trial events.

Continuing, Mr. Vobora noted other recommended policy changes, including adding private non-profit 501(19)(c) agencies to the fare discounts program for non-profits, linking group pass increases to changes in the consumer price index and increasing the price of tokens from \$1.00 to \$1.10. He noted that tokens were sold in units of five and the increase in cost still provided a discount from the cash fare while generating \$25,000 in additional revenue at current sales.

2006 Annual Route Review – Director of Development Services Stefano Viggiano stated that the Annual Route Review (ARR) could include service adjustments or fixes to address operational problems, service enhancements, major redesign, and addressing substandard service. He said the ARR process had begun two months before, with service planners collecting information obtained throughout the year, and would continue with Board discussions of service changes, two public hearings at the Eugene Library, a Board decision on ARR services changes in mid-March, and implementation of changes in September, with the exception of EmX service changes, which would be implemented in December 2006.

Mr. Viggiano reviewed the ARR process and data collection techniques:

- Collection of information from employees, particularly bus operators, throughout the year, with items pertinent to the ARR flagged for that process

- Multi-departmental Service Advisory Committee focused on ARR
- Direct input from operators on particular routes
- Public notification of ARR
- Public comments received throughout the year and solicited in response to service changes
- Meetings in affected neighborhoods

Mr. Viggiano said he did not anticipate much controversy over the ARR this year. He reviewed the list of possible service changes and highlighted some of the key issues and options on which the ARR would focus:

- EmX/Thurston – frequency of service on EmX between downtown Eugene and downtown Springfield and frequency of service east of Springfield Station
- Service to the federal courthouse in fall 2006 – many road changes will not be completed for some time and initially vehicle and pedestrian access to the facility will be difficult
- #22 – school-oriented route operated only when school is in session, eliminate 5:20 p.m. trip that failed to meet target
- #76/University of Oregon/Westmoreland – poor ridership route, eliminate
- #98/Cottage Grove – high ridership route, possibly add extra trips in the afternoon to relieve overloads, separate routes
- Eugene Station bay assignments to accommodate EmX, Olive Street routing to expedite station departures
- Add back some service reductions from previous years, including increasing midday frequency on #28 and #30
- #28 – most ridership oriented toward the University of Oregon, possibly terminate route there

Ms. Ban asked if some of the changes reflected a shift from the hub model. Mr. Viggiano said that the University of Oregon and Sacred Heart represented a major destination and counts would be made of the number of riders traveling through to downtown; approximately a half-dozen routes already terminated at the University. Mr. Hamm added that terminating at the University also saved space at the Eugene station.

Mr. Viggiano said that some of the requests to add back service related to later trips. Adding those trips could affect earlier trips as it would open opportunities for people who worked swing shift to use transit; they did not currently take the earlier trip because there was no way to return at the end of their shifts.

Ms. Ban asked if midday trips would be restored only on certain routes. Acting Service Manager Will Mueller replied that trips would be restored on major routes that represented the core system.

Mr. Gaydos asked for clarification of eliminating Wednesday exceptions on #451 and Madison routes. Mr. Mueller explained that there were four trips on Wednesday that ran differently than during the rest of the week and, unless they were structured into the service package in a certain way, there was a cascading effect on the system used to schedule work and created administrative problems. He said the exceptions provided accommodation for schools that had different schedules on Wednesdays.

Mr. Gaydos asked what impact closing of the University's Westmoreland student housing might have on routes in that area. Mr. Viggiano said the assumption at this point was that even if the housing was not the University's it would be occupied and current service should be maintained for at least a year to determine what impact, if any, there would be.

Mr. Gaydos encouraged staff to use service change public outreach and education strategies similar to those that were highly successful for the Interstate 105 construction project last summer.

Ms. Davis arrived at 6:30 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – Transit Services Manager Sue Quick introduced February 2006 Employee of the Month Bus Operator Javier Rodriguez. She described Mr. Rodriguez's exemplary service to LTD and its customers and said he had been nominated by two customers and a co-worker.

Mr. Gaydos presented Mr. Rodriguez with his awards and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Rodriguez expressed his appreciation for the award and said he felt lucky to work for LTD.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – Mr. Gaydos called for comments from the audience on non-agenda topics.

Shannon Wilson of Eugene spoke to the Board about a proposed bike path to improve safety along 14th Avenue. He said the path would be located on LTD property. He said he had ridden a bicycle along Franklin Boulevard for ten years and it was very dangerous due to lack of sidewalks or bike lanes. He urged LTD to advocate for the path as future transit projects on Franklin Boulevard would increase the danger to bicyclists and pedestrians.

Lisa Hollingsworth of Eugene addressed the Board about a personnel issue and stated she felt she was wrongfully terminated from LTD employment.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION **Consent Calendar** – Ms. Ban moved adoption of LTD Board Resolution No. 2006-001: "It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for January 18, 2006, is approved as presented." Mr. Kortge provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the December 2, 2005, special Board meeting, the December 21, 2005, regular Board meeting, and the nomination to the Budget Committee of Darrel Williams.

VOTE The Consent Calendar was approved as follows:
 AYES: Ban, Davis, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
 NAYS: None
 ABSENCES: None
 EXCUSED: Gant

Supplemental Budget for FY 2005-06 – Director of Finance & Information Technology Diane Hellekson explained that the supplemental budget would make adjustments to the FY 2005-2006 General Fund, Commuter Solutions Fund, and Capital Projects Fund budgets as described in the agenda item summary to accommodate receipt of grant funds for the Commuter Solutions program and move funds for the purchase of revenue vehicles into the current fiscal year.

Mr. Gaydos opened the public hearing and called for testimony. There being no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing.

MOTION Ms. Ban moved approval of LTD Resolution 2006-002, which amended the LTD fiscal year 2005-2006 budget as represented in the resolution. Ms. Davis provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
 AYES: Ban, Davis, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
 NAYS: None
 ABSECTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: Gant

ConnectOregon Grant Application – Mr. Viggiano stated that the grant application was for funding under the multi-modal *ConnectOregon* program to be used as local match for the Pioneer Parkway EmX project and to pay for elements of the project, such as the RiverBend Transit lanes, which were best constructed prior to completion of all the federal requirements. He said the application would be competing with other rail, aviation, marine, and transit projects for the funds. He said that applications were due February 17, 2006, and if the Board approved submission of the application it would go before the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) on February 9, 2006, and the Board's MPC representatives may advocate for it.

Mr. Eyster asked if the \$7.6 million requested would come from *ConnectOregon* funding allocated for the region or statewide funding. Government Relations Manager Linda Lynch replied that the funding was regarded by the Oregon Transportation Commission, which would determine which projects were funded, as a single pot of money with the hope that funding would be fairly evenly distributed across modes and regions. She explained that jurisdictions would not apply for a specific regional or statewide allocation; that would be up to the Oregon Department of Transportation staff to decide. Ms. Ban added that it was likely there would be other allocations in future years.

MOTION Mr. Eyster moved approval of LTD Resolution 2006-004: It is hereby resolved that the LTD Board directs staff to submit an application for *ConnectOregon* funds in the amount of \$7.6 million to be used to help pay for the Pioneer Parkway EmX project. Mr. Kortge provided the second.

VOTE The Consent Calendar was approved as follows:
 AYES: Ban, Davis, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
 NAYS: None
 ABSECTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: Gant

Franklin EmX Property Acquisition – EmX Public Relations Representative Sue Viggiano stated that the resolution described property identified for the eastbound Glenwood station for the Franklin EmX corridor. She said the redesign of EmX in Glenwood resulted in four small curbside stations and the need for property not originally part of the plan. She said the property was owned by CCJS Holding, the owners had indicated a willingness to sell and negotiations were in progress.

MOTION Mr. Kortge moved approval of LTD Resolution 2006-003 authorizing the Lane Transit District to acquire by purchase or by the exercise of the Power of Eminent Domain certain Real Property necessary for the Franklin EmX project as represented in the Resolution. Ms. Ban provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
AYES: Ban, Davis, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
NAYS: None
ABSESIONS: None
EXCUSED: Gant

Election of Board Treasurer and Committee Assignments

MOTION Mr. Kortge moved that Debbie Davis be elected treasurer of the LTD Board of Directors to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2006. Mr. Eyster provided the second.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
AYES: Ban, Davis, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (5)
NAYS: None
ABSESIONS: None
EXCUSED: Gant

Mr. Gaydos announced that Ms. Davis also would be the Board's alternative MPC representative.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Board Member Reports – Ms. Ban reported on agreement at the January 2006 MPC meeting to move forward with a collaborative process proposed by Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy to consider alternatives to the West Eugene Parkway. She said that LTD would participate in the process, which would be facilitated by the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. She said that Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) time-sensitive projects were approved.

Mr. Gaydos said he would participate as a member the committee to develop criteria and select the facilitator for the collaborative process.

General Manager Selection Process – Mr. Gaydos referred to handout materials that described the process. He said that the Board would have an opportunity to discuss a number of approaches that included moving swiftly to hire a new general manager, retaining an interim general manager for a longer period, or appointing an internal candidate without any process.

Mr. Kortge said he preferred an expedited process that would have a new general manager starting sooner than January 2007. Mr. Gaydos replied that the materials identified several options and the Board could discuss them more fully, with public notice, at the February meeting and determine what approach was preferred.

Monthly Financial Report – Ms. Hellekson referred to the written report included in the agenda packet and said that, with the exception of a slight concern about diesel fuel price increases, LTD was in a very stable condition halfway through the fiscal year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.


Board Secretary

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