

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING/WORK SESSION

Wednesday, October 18, 2006

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

Present: Gerry Gaydos, President
Susan Ban, Vice President
Mike Eyster
David Gant
Dean Kortge
Mark Pangborn, General Manager
Jo Sullivan, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

Absent: Debbie Davis

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Mr. Gaydos called the meeting to order and called the roll.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT – Mr. Gaydos said he was continually impressed with the EMX facility on Franklin Boulevard and it will be even more impressive when the art work is installed.

WORK SESSION

2008 Olympic Trials Service Request – Director of Service Planning, Accessibility and Marketing Andy Vobora introduced members of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials—Track and Field to discuss ways to partner with LTD. The members introduced were Tom Jordan, Barbara Kousky, Greg Erwin and Kari Westlund.

Mr. Erwin stated that a year ago Eugene submitted the winning bid to host the 2008 Olympic Trials. He said one of the selling points was the support of the entire community for the event and the LOC was now asking for commitments from local partners. He said that LTD's partnership would be significant as a shuttle to move many people around efficiently and effectively was an essential component. He showed a short video used to promote Eugene and Hayward Field as the site for the event.

Mr. Erwin said that the cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County had contributed in aggregate \$500,000 and discussions were being held with the State for assistance. He said the LOC was looking to LTD to be a major player and the Trials would be an opportunity to showcase LTD's services at an international event. He said the Trials would cover the period from June 27 to July 6, 2008.

Mr. Eyster asked if staff had discussed what LTD's contribution might be. Mr. Vobora replied that a specific level of service had not been discussed. He said the Board might wish to have a work session to discuss the special events policy implications and value of a level of service.

Mr. Gaydos noted that bus rapid transit (BRT) service would be free at the time of the Trials.

Mr. Jordan said that the committee was particularly interested in shuttle service between the airport and hotels, and hotels and venues (Hayward Field and the practice track at South Eugene High School); transportation back to the airport for athletes; and shuttle service for spectators.

In response to several questions from Board members, Mr. Vobora said that there were not concerns with availability of equipment and staffing in the summer or conflicts with other events during the Trials. He expected the service impact of the Trials to be less than that experienced with previous events.

Ms. Ban asked if staff had any concerns about managing the workload associated with planning for the Trials. Mr. Vobora said that two staff members were assigned to work with the committee.

Mr. Pangborn said it was the District's position that special service like this was supported by the community and LTD had the unique ability to move a lot of people quickly and efficiently. He said the advantage in this instance was the time available to plan and timing of the event in the summer. He said the question of cost would be discussed as part of the budget process and a decision could be made in the summer of 2007. He thought the Trials would be a great opportunity to showcase the District.

Mr. Gaydos thanked the LOC members for their efforts.

Commuter Solutions Program – Mr. Pangborn announced that Commuter Solutions received an award for transit options of the year at the October 12, 2006, Oregon Transportation Conference. He said the award was made in recognition of a remarkable program advocating transportation options, including the student transit pass, across the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area.

Commuter Solutions Director Connie Bloom-Williams thanked the Board for its support and encouragement.

Alternative Mobility Standards – Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Transportation Planner Tom Schwetz delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Balancing Regional Mobility with a Vibrant Local Economy*. He explained that the Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) contained standards for mobility on the state highway system. When those standards could not be met, the OHP provided for the development of Alternative Mobility Standards (AMS). He said development of AMS required local commitment to specific actions and many of those were included in the Central Lane Metropolitan Policy Organization (MPO) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He said congestion related to an excess of vehicles on a portion of roadway resulted in speeds that were slower than normal at certain times and could be characterized as both "good" and "bad" congestion. He reviewed the positive and negative effects of congestion and said that congestion was a consequence of growth in the economy and the resulting increases in dwelling units and employment; and growth in urban levels of development in surrounding areas.

Mr. Schwetz identified a number of variables that contributed to daily congestion such as special events, poor signal timing, bad weather, work zones, and traffic incidents. He used a series of maps to illustrate geographic, population, employment, dwelling unit density, and vehicle trip growth in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area. He also illustrated the mobility dependence of area roadways, both state and local, and the locations of congestion currently and in 20 years. He said the next phase would be to discuss ways in which congestion could be addressed.

Mr. Schwetz presented a comparison of mobility among Portland, Salem and Eugene-Springfield. He said that the Eugene-Springfield area had half the congestion of most cities of comparable size and Portland, which was seven times larger, had 33 times the congestion of the Eugene-Springfield area. He identified congestion implications as set forth in the *Statewide Congestion Overview for Oregon*. He said that next steps included:

- Compile results from assessment of alternative solutions
- Develop proposal for possible changes to State's mobility standards
- Identify possible local commitments to include in proposal

Mr. Gaydos asked Mr. Schwetz to elaborate on "good" congestion. Mr. Schwetz said that Oak Street was a good example of a local facility that could probably (with some changes) become comparable to N.W. 23rd Street in Portland that was congestion tolerant. He said the challenge was how to move trips through without damaging the quality of the area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Mr. Pangborn pointed out that LTD was featured on the cover of a quarterly BRT publication by the University of South Florida Center for Transportation Research. He said the City of Springfield had sent a note of thanks for LTD's participation in the opening of the Martin Luther King Boulevard extension and roundabout.

Mr. Pangborn announced that former LTD general manager Ken Hamm would become the new transit system director for the City of Fresno, California on November 6, 2006. He said that the monthly department reports included in agenda packets took some effort to produce, but if the Board found them useful, staff would continue to provide them.

Ms. Ban remarked that the reports were useful but if there was nothing of particular interest from a department, staff should just indicate there was nothing to report. Board members agreed with Ms. Ban's suggestion.

In response to a question from Mr. Kortge, Transit Operations Manager Mark Johnson explained that a bus driver was the victim of an unprovoked attack by a passenger. He said the driver was shaken up but not seriously injured and would return to work; the passenger was arrested and now permanently banned from the transit system.

Mr. Kortge said he appreciated receiving monthly ridership data.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Monthly Financial Report – Director of Finance & Information Technology Diane Hellekson said she was concerned about the 20 percent growth in payroll tax receipts as it seemed unrealistic; although some increase was realized from the State's collection efforts. She said that fuel prices were now below the budgeted amount. She noted that the very large increases in ridership resulted from implementation of the student pass program and those numbers might not continue. She said the Board would receive the independent audit report in December.

Board Member Reports

EMX Steering Committee – Mr. Gaydos reported that committee member Tammy Fitch had expressed an interest in continuing her service on the committee even though her term on the Springfield City Council was ending. He said the Board would likely appoint her.

Metropolitan Policy Committee – Ms. Ban reported that the MPC met jointly with the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and reviewed the draft Public Participation Plan. She said there was also discussion of the CAC's role and the MPC's expectations. Mr. Gaydos asserted that the CAC needed to feel that the MPC valued its opinions and recommendations. He said CAC members requested that joint meetings be regularly scheduled with the MPC.

Board Human Resource Committee – Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Mary Adams said general manager evaluation process surveys were being distributed to Board members, LTD employees, and members of the Leadership Council. She said that the survey for employees was new and somewhat different from the Board and Leadership Council Survey; responses were due October 31, 2006. She noted that the survey instruments had been modified from the earlier generic version.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH – Director of Transit Operations Mark Johnson introduced Customer Service Representative Natalie Lillie who was nominated by a co-worker. He said that Ms. Lillie was originally hired as a bus driver and became a customer service representative in August 2004. He commended her efforts to enter and maintain data for the EZ Access program.

After receiving her award, Ms. Lillie thanked the Board and indicated how much she enjoyed her job and being part of the community.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – There was no one wishing to speak.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION **Consent Calendar** – Ms. Ban moved adoption of LTD Board Resolution No. 2006-033: "It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for October 18, 2006, is approved as presented." Mr. Kortge provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the September 19, 2006, special Board meeting and the September 20, 2006, canceled Board meeting.

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

Third EMX Corridor – Mr. Pangborn stated that the Eugene City Council had asked LTD to consider participating in a joint study of West Eugene transportation solutions. Assistant General Manager Stefano Viggiano reported that the Eugene City Council had identified West 11th Avenue for study as the next EMX corridor. He said the matter was referred to the EMX Steering Committee and shared the following comments from committee members:

- George Poling – emphasized the need to connect Veneta to the metropolitan area and how that might fit with EMX and cautioned that the planning process would take some time
- Steve Gordon – a long east/west corridor made sense; Region 2050 population growth projections should be considered in the planning process along with land use/transportation connections; explore railroad right-of-way opportunities; land use issues
- Tammy Fitch – consider a secondary corridor in case West 11th Avenue does not work out
- Dave Jewett – the original plan was for a long east/west corridor and that was still viable; consider a connection to Thurston; avoid the West Eugene Parkway quagmire

Mr. Viggiano said the staff recommendation was to concur with the City of Eugene's selection of West 11th Avenue as the next EMX corridor but clarify LTD's expectations of the partnership. He distributed a draft letter from the LTD Board to Mayor Kitty Piercy and the City Council stating the Board's endorsement and outlining issues such as access, parking, funding for local match, and requesting a joint meeting to reach mutual agreement on those issues.

Mr. Eyster urged that the letter emphasize the importance of the City taking leadership of pursuing preferred design and resolving private property concerns--noting the challenges those issues had presented on other routes.

Mr. Gant suggested that the letter also incorporate a reference to the fact that improving traffic problems in West Eugene had been on the table for a very long time, and emphasize the importance of moving any joint effort with LTD forward smoothly to take advantage of federal funding cycles.

Mr. Schwetz pointed out that wetlands issues would be a part of a West 11th Avenue transportation solution and suggested that the City be encouraged to coordinate with critical federal partners at the beginning of the process.

Mr. Gaydos determined there was consensus to include in the letter emphasis on the City's leadership role; federal funding cycles and timelines; and the need to consider wetlands issues at the inception of planning activities.

MOTION Mr. Eyster moved adoption of LTD Board Resolution 2006-034: "Resolved, that the LTD Board of Directors selects the West 11th Avenue corridor as the next EMX corridor to be studied, subject to the conditions set forth in the letter the Eugene City Council."

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

Mr. Gant noted his ongoing concerns about bus rapid transit for the record.

Report on Budget Priorities – Mr. Pangborn provided an update on current year budget priorities in anticipation of the Board's strategic planning workshop. He reviewed strategies developed in the priority areas of service improvement, fleet maintenance, workplace environment and facility preservation and the status of preliminary results. He said that on-time performance was at the 90 percent level and those statistics included unavoidable delays due to things such as accidents. He said that capacity continued to be an issue and 20 new Gillig vehicles had been ordered, and five New Flyer articulated vehicles would arrive in 2007. He described the challenges of hiring skilled diesel mechanics and the internal training programs LTD had developed to address the problem. He distributed a chart of preventive maintenance inspections and noted the significant improvement in 2006.

In response to a question from Mr. Eyster, Director of Fleet Maintenance George Trauger said problems with the particulate trap had mostly been resolved by Detroit Diesel.

Continuing, Mr. Pangborn reviewed the new workplace programs and incentives that had been implemented. He said that while LTD would continue to recruit outside of the organization, he hoped that all positions would have strong internal candidates.

BOARD CALENDARS – Mr. Pangborn distributed a draft agenda for the Board's strategic planning retreat and reviewed the discussion topics. He said that if new Board members were known by the time of the retreat, they would be invited to participate.

Ms. Ban asked that Jeff Wright of *The Register Guard* be sent a copy of the University of South Florida publication featuring LTD.

Mr. Pangborn said a delay in delivery of EMX vehicles had moved the start-up date back but the dedication was still scheduled for January 4, 2007.

Mr. Trauger conveyed the apologies of New Flyer for the delay and said they were doing their best to get the EMX vehicles delivered as soon as possible.

Mr. Viggiano noted that the Springfield City Council was scheduled to make a decision on the Pioneer Parkway EMX on November 6, and the Lane County Board of Commissioners would take action on November 8, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.


Board Secretary