

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING/WORK SESSION

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on April 19, 2007, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held a special board meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in Conference Room A at 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Gerry Gaydos, President, presiding
Susan Ban, Vice President
Debbie Davis, Treasurer
Michael Dubick
Greg Evans
Mike Eyster
Dean Kortge, Secretary
Mark Pangborn, General Manager
Jo Sullivan, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – Mr. Pangborn asked to add an action item, designation of the LTD Team to negotiate real property transactions, to the agenda.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – Transit Operations Manager Mark Johnson introduced Operations Supervisor Gary Taylor as the May 2007 Employee of the Month. He said that Mr. Taylor had just retired after 35 years with the District and his father had also retired from LTD. He thanked Mr. Taylor for his outstanding service and wished him well on his retirement.

Mr. Gaydos presented Mr. Taylor's awards and expressed the Board's appreciation for his years of service.

Mr. Taylor thanked the Board for the award. He said his 35 years with the District had been fantastic and LTD was a great place to work.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – Mr. Gaydos determined that there was no one wishing to speak.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION Consent Calendar – Mr. Eyster moved adoption of LTD Resolution 2007-015: "It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for April 25, 2007, is approved as presented." Mr. Kortge

provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the March 12, 2007, special Board meeting.

VOTE The Consent Calendar was approved as follows:
 AYES: Ban, Davis, Dubick, Evans, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (7)
 NAYS: None
 ABSENTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: None

Second Reading and Adoption of Amended Fare Ordinance – Director of Service Planning, Accessibility, and Marketing Andy Vobora stated that this would be the Board's final action on the revised fare ordinance. He said that monthly pass rates would be implemented in July 2007 and group pass rates on January 1, 2008.

MOTION Ms. Ban moved that Fourteenth Amended Ordinance No. 35 be read by title only. Mr. Dubick provided the second.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
 AYES: Ban, Davis, Dubick, Evans, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (7)
 NAYS: None
 ABSENTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: None

Ms. Ban read the ordinance by title only: Fourteenth Amended Ordinance No. 35, An Ordinance Setting Fares for Use of District Services.

MOTION Ms. Ban moved LTD Resolution No. 2007-016: "Be it resolved that the LTD Board of Directors hereby adopts Lane Transit District Fourteenth Amended Ordinance No. 35, An Ordinance Setting Fares for Use of District Services." Mr. Kortge provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
 AYES: Ban, Davis, Dubick, Evans, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (7)
 NAYS: None
 ABSENTIONS: None
 EXCUSED: None

Designation of LTD Team to Negotiate Real Property Transactions – Mr. Pangborn explained that designation of a team to negotiate real property transactions was a necessary part of the property acquisition process. He said the District would be purchasing property over the next several years and in order to meet in executive session to discuss those transactions the Board needed to designate staff authorized to represent the District. He said the proposed team would be identified by title rather than name.

Mr. Eyster asked if the negotiations would be done in consultation with the Board. Mr. Pangborn assured him that proposed transaction would be discussed with the Board before negotiations proceeded.

MOTION Mr. Eyster moved LTD Resolution No. 2007-017: "It is hereby resolved that the LTD Board of Directors designates the LTD general manager, the LTD director of Planning and Development

and the LTD facilities manager to negotiate real property transactions." Ms. Davis provided the second.

VOTE

The resolution was approved as follows:

AYES: Ban, Davis, Dubick, Evans, Eyster, Gaydos, Kortge (7)

NAYS: None

ABSENTIONS: None

EXCUSED: None

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Board Member Reports – Mr. Gaydos said the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) had a 2031 planning horizon and the Metro Plan only went to 2015. He said the MPC was involved in updating the RTP to extend the horizon to meet federal requirements. He said the purpose of the plan was to assure that the current and planned transportation system was adequate to meet population assumptions. LTD was concerned because an RTP had to be in place in order for the District to receive federal funds. He said a major issue was the City of Eugene's concern with potential expansion of the urban growth boundary and its unwillingness to consider an expansion. He said the MPC would be working on the update to assure it was completed in a timely manner and to address concerns that the RTP did not bind local jurisdictions to projections in the plan.

Director of Development Services Tom Schwetz commented that LTD was concerned from the perspective of having the federal process proceed in a timely manner and also from the perspective that the regional land use plan had not been updated in 20 years and the District needed to target services where growth would occur and the plan did not extend as far into the future as LTD's investments did.

Mr. Gaydos said elimination of the West Eugene Parkway necessitated a new planning transportation planning process for that area and a West Eugene (WE) group had been formed to work through a collaborative process. He said it was important for LTD to participate, but the District faced its own timeline for a West Eugene corridor and that had been communicated to the WE group.

Mr. Eyster asked if the planning process meant the City of Eugene was stepping back from its commitment to a West 11th Avenue EmX corridor. Mr. Gaydos said that the study was much broader than just the corridor and he did not perceive a lack of commitment from the City to consider a West 11th Avenue corridor.

Mr. Schwetz remarked that LTD potentially could be part of a solution to transportation problems in West Eugene and the City was taking a more comprehensive look at issues. He said the third corridor was being referred to as the West Eugene corridor instead of the West 11th Avenue corridor at the present time.

Mr. Gaydos said a group had formed to oppose using West 11th Avenue as an EmX corridor because of concerns with adverse impacts on the neighborhood, and LTD was working with that group to understand its concerns and address them.

Mr. Pangborn pointed out that LTD needed to have a project defined in sufficient time to apply for funding under the next federal transportation bill.

Mr. Eyster remarked that the City of Eugene had come to LTD and agreed to be a full partner in the development of a third corridor. He was concerned that this recent development could mean that LTD would be left to take the lead with regard to negotiating aspects of the project, such as lane structure, which were necessary to make the project work.

Mr. Gaydos concurred with Mr. Eyster's concern. He thought City staff remained supportive of the corridor project, but he was not certain how the WE group process had affected the commitment of elected officials. He indicated that both the WE group and City staff were well aware of LTD's concerns and timeliness issues.

Assistant General Manager Stefano Viggiano noted that an open house to launch the West Eugene planning process was scheduled for May 21. He said that Board members would be provided information on the meeting and urged them to attend.

Mr. Kortge reported that he had given a talk to the Rubicon Society; it had gone well and there was a good discussion.

Mr. Gaydos encouraged staff to contact all of the Board members when speaking opportunities arose.

Monthly Financial Report – Director of Finance & Information Technology Diane Hellekson reported that nine months into the fiscal year the budget was in good shape. She said that payroll tax receipts were still slightly below expectations and the effect of the rate increase would be seen in May. She thought that would bring a good infusion of revenue. She said that ridership was still very strong and fuel expenses were still below budget.

Student Transit Pass Program Changes – Mr. Vobora commented that information had been given to the schools and would be provided to elected officials shortly regarding discontinuation of the Student Transit Pass program. He said that staff were continuing to explore opportunities to replace funding that was no longer available from the Oregon Department of Education. He said the Board's Service Planning and Marketing Committee would consider the issue on May 9.

Mr. Gaydos said that he and Ms. Ban served on a 4J School District planning group and transportation would be the subject at the next meeting. He said 4J was indicating that it cost \$11,000 for each school bus it added to its fleet and perhaps that might provide the District some leverage in negotiating for a Group Pass Program.

Mr. Vobora reminded the Board that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) had strict regulations regarding transit districts providing school bus service. He said to date LTD had not been cited for any problems but it was important to assure that student use was integrated into the transit system and not create specialized services that did not meet the needs of all users.

Mr. Gaydos said that LTD had gotten good publicity from the program and ridership had increased.

Mr. Vobora remarked that it would be interesting to see how many student riders continued to use transit as a mode of transportation.

Commuter Solutions Program Manager Connie Bloom Williams added that the response to elimination of the program was minimal currently, but she expected a more substantial response in the fall when school began and people realized there was no program.

Mr. Eyster suggested publicizing loss of the program in the hope of restoring it before the next school year.

Mr. Kortge cautioned against appearing to put pressure on the school districts to provide the funding.

Mr. Evans asked if there was a way to collaborate with the school districts to address the transportation needs of low-income students and the potential adverse impact on them by identifying alternate funding, such as grants. Mr. Vobora replied that 4J provided a monthly bus pass to any student on the free and reduced lunch program at the high school level and bus service was provided at the middle and elementary levels.

School Transportation Project Lead Lisa VanWinkle said that LTD had offered to work with the school districts on a pilot study to identify efficiencies among the school district and LTD fleets. She said that at this point the most interest had come from Springfield. She explained that the Chalkboard Project, a statewide organization looking at school improvement, had indicated an interest in helping fund a pilot project if there was local interest. She said that Springfield was interested in a potential group pass program specifically for alternative education students. She said that two 4J schools also were interested in the group pass program, but it was not certain whether that could be done by individual schools.

Legislative Briefing – Mr. Viggiano provided updates to the information in the agenda packet. He said that HB 2422, relating to increasing the cigarette tax for elderly and disabled transit, had a hearing during the week but was not yet scheduled for a work session. He was not certain if there would be further activity. He said that HB 2537, relating to prohibiting transit employees from striking, was out of committee and would be voted on soon by the House. He said it was expected to pass.

Mr. Pangborn said that HB 2537 contained an emergency clause that would make it effective during the course of the District's labor negotiations if they were not concluded by July 1.

Continuing, Mr. Viggiano said there had been no movement on SB 476, requiring an elected LTD Board, and no activity was scheduled. He said LTD was working with the local legislative delegation to put \$10 million for a third EmX corridor in HB 5036, allocating high-capacity bond revenues.

Mr. Vobora said he had provided testimony on HB 2422 the previous day and it was well received by the committee, who recognized that the program deserved more funding and the growing impact of paratransit services on the District's budget. He said some legislators had indicated a willingness to advocate for the funding with the governor, who was proposing a large increase in the cigarette tax to fund health insurance for children.

Mr. Viggiano pointed out that next year's budget included a transfer of nearly \$2 million from the General Fund to special transportation.

Mr. Eyster asked if there was any opposition to HB 2537. Mr. Viggiano said that only the Oregon Transit Association had taken a position opposing it.

Mr. Gaydos thought that support for the LTD Board from the local business community had some impact on keeping SB 476 in committee and that demonstrated the value of maintaining good relationships in the community.

Mr. Eyster asked if local chambers of commerce would have an interest in taking a position on HB 2537. Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Mary Adams replied that the Springfield Chamber had been interested initially but there was so much momentum behind it that the Chamber was not willing to take a position.

Mr. Viggiano pointed out that the LTD Board had not taken a position on HB 2537.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.



Board Secretary