

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on May 14, 2009, 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 Wednesday, May 20, 2009, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the LTD Conference Room at 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Mike Eyster, President
Michael Dubick
Greg Evans
Dean Kortge
Ed Necker
Doris Towery
Mark Pangborn, General Manager
Jeanne Schapper, Clerk of the Board
Kim Young, Minutes Recorder

Absent: Gerry Gaydos

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mr. Eyster convened the meeting of the Lane Transit District Board of Directors and called the roll.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: Mr. Eyster reported that he and Assistant General Manager Stefano Viggiano visited Salem to discuss Senate Bill 34, which would increase the maximum payroll tax rate to .008 percent. The news had been encouraging as the bill passed through committee with a "Do-Pass" recommendation. Mr. Eyster acknowledged that a study of economic recovery would be needed to justify the increase.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were none.

WORK SESSION

West Eugene Collaborative Final Report: The Board was joined by WEC Members Rob Zako and Jim Welsh, who provided a presentation regarding the recommendations of the West Eugene Collaborative (WEC). The presentation included background on the project, the membership, the proposed design for West 11th Avenue, and information about the role of transit in the corridor. The presenters indicated that more public involvement was to come. They also explained that the funding for the concept was not yet in place nor were the projects necessary to implement the vision included in any planning document.

Mr. Eyster solicited Board questions.

Mr. Evans said that the WEC recommendations made him question whether such an approach would require an overhaul of the area's existing zoning and the current City Code. He stated that Eugene's current land use planning might not support the approach.

Mr. Evans suggested that transit could help be a catalyst for redevelopment of the area, and asked the presenters where they thought that would have the most impact. Mr. Welsh anticipated that the needed zoning changes would happen gradually, and he did not expect a major overhaul of the zoning in the area any time soon. Mr. Zako emphasized the incremental nature of the WEC recommendations and said that there were existing constraints and funding issues that would prevent West 11th Avenue from being changed quickly. He anticipated that, in the near-term, some natural resource lands would be rezoned to reflect that use but that other rezoning would occur over time, as the market allowed, after the vision was adopted. Mr. Welsh believed that the residential community to the south of West 11th Avenue perceived the concept as a way to enhance the commercial area to make it more usable for them. Mr. Zako emphasized the public/private partnerships necessary for the redevelopment to happen.

Responding to a question from Mr. Kortge about the possibility of the EmX routing having to be redesigned if the WEC recommendations were achieved, Director of Planning and Development Tom Schwetz displayed a diagram depicting a cross section of the boulevard design and indicated that the cross section accurately illustrated where transit would run. He said that the Amazon route would not conflict with the concept. Mr. Evans asked if the Amazon route changed the character of the WEC vision significantly. Mr. Welsh stated that it changed some things but the changes were not drastic. Mr. Zako added that the cross section the Board was seeing was one example of what the multi-way boulevard might look like. The boulevard could include dedicated lanes for transit, or it may not; there could be a dedicated lane for transit in one direction and not in another. The WEC had explored those ideas but it had not designed the route, and it was not tied to a particular design for West 11th Avenue. That would be part of the discussion as the project went forward. He emphasized that the key principle to better transit in West Eugene was to have it close enough to West 11th Avenue to support the vision. The number of dedicated lanes was still undecided.

Mr. Necker asked about the time frame for completion of a multi-way boulevard, asking if it would be incremental. He added that he did not think incremental construction would be beneficial to the EmX, nor would a shift of route from the Amazon channel to West 11th Avenue. Mr. Zako stressed the incremental nature of the WEC's recommendations. The WEC had short-, medium-, and long-term recommendations that he anticipated would be realized over decades. He said that while WEC members were excited about the boulevard concept, they had trepidation about its implementation. He understood that other communities that used the approach completed such routes in segments by building some segments before others when the opportunity arose.

Mr. Schwetz noted that there had not yet been a technical analysis of the concept and that it still needed to be done.

Mr. Schwetz suggested that EmX on West 11th Avenue would be one of the elements that would help establish it as a multi-way boulevard.

Speaking to the Amazon alignment, Mr. Schwetz reiterated that the Amazon EmX route was within 300 to 600 feet of West 11th Avenue and that the stations along the Amazon would be at

City View and Oakpatch. He pointed out that if the EmX route was along the Amazon, the multi-way boulevard would require 24 less feet of right-of-way.

Mr. Evans commended the WEC vision.

Responding to a question from Ms. Towery, Mr. Zako discussed the WEC's vision of shifting existing industrial uses in the area to a newly developed industrial area. Mr. Schwetz noted that the WEC had discussed the concept of an "industrial preserve," which would establish a planned, unchangeable industrial area. He said that the concept had been used in Portland.

West Eugene EmX Extension—Presentation to Eugene City Council: Mr. Schwetz thanked the Board for helping refine the presentation and Mr. Eyster for taking the lead in the discussion. He said that the primary message that the Board and staff had heard was that it was important that the Council hear from those directly affected by the project. He had reiterated to the Council that LTD would do a major outreach effort, particularly to those directly affected. He stated that staff also would do a response document that would be shared with the Board, and would follow-up on some of the questions that had been asked by individual councilors.

Mr. Schwetz recalled that meeting participants had discussed options for the Locally Preferred Alternative process. The Board then asked the Council what type of information it was looking for to help make the decision and asked what process it wished to use to reach that decision. He relayed that staff had suggested a joint committee be established by LTD, Eugene, and the Metropolitan Policy Committee. He said that the Council liked that idea. He anticipated that the Council would discuss the issue in greater detail in September and would provide more direction to its staff at that time. When the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is released, he anticipated a meeting between the LTD Board, the City Council and perhaps the Metropolitan Policy Committee to discuss the subject at length, and then the joint committee process could commence.

Mr. Eyster agreed that the presentation was improved by the Board's previous discussion. The presentation also had provided for interaction between the LTD representatives and the Council. He said that there were a lot of stakeholders in the process, and that much was at stake.

Mr. Evans liked the idea of a joint committee but urged caution concerning the possibility of Board member overload and burnout due to involvement in too many committees. He believed that the Board should be clear about the processes and who would be responsible for decision making. He advocated for a simple and transparent process. Mr. Schwetz indicated that staff would return to the Board with a draft outline of the decision-making process.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Pauline Hutson, Eugene, discussed eminent domain in conjunction with the EmX expansion project and her concerns about the impact of that process on individuals. She did not think that eminent domain had to take place as there were alternative routes to be found on 6th and 7th avenues and tax credits for reinvestment. She asked the Board to think of the little people. She expressed concern about the greater distances that would exist between bus stops along the proposed EmX routes.

Mr. Eyster said that it was clear to him that no one at LTD had yet locked in on any one route. He did not want to close off any options until the Board received the analysis, when it could balance that analysis with the input of citizens like Ms. Hutson.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION **Consent Calendar:** Mr. Dubick moved adoption of LTD Resolution 2009-014. It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for May 20, 2009, is approved as presented. Mr. Kortge provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the February 18, 2009, Regular Board Meeting; March 2, 2009, Special Board Meeting; and the March 31, 2009, Special Board Meeting.

VOTE The Consent Calendar was approved as follows:
AYES: Dubick, Eyster, Evans, Kortge, Necker, Towery (6)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Gaydos

Public Hearing and Approval: Federal Grant Applications: Financial Services Manager Todd Lipkin presented a brief overview of the three grant applications that were before the Board, including a Small Starts grant agreement to fully fund the Project Construction Grant Agreement for the Gateway EmX Extension, and a Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction program.

Mr. Eyster opened the public hearing. There being no requests to speak, Mr. Eyster closed the public hearing.

MOTION Mr. Kortge moved adoption of LTD Resolution 2009-015: It is hereby resolved that the LTD Board of Directors approves the proposed grant applications, which total \$7,590,000 in federal funds and authorizes the general manager to submit these grant applications to the Federal Transit Authority for approval. Mr. Necker provided the second.

VOTE Resolution 2009-015 was approved as follows:
AYES: Dubick, Eyster, Evans, Kortge, Necker, Towery (6)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Gaydos

Approve Selection of Audit Services: Chief Accountant/Internal Auditor Carol James thanked the Finance Committee for its work on the audit process. Mr. Kortge acknowledged the Finance Committee's higher level of involvement in the process this year and said that it worked closely with staff to review the Request for Proposals that LTD received for audit services contracts.

MOTION Mr. Kortge moved adoption of LTD Resolution 2009-016: It is hereby resolved that the LTD Board of Directors authorize the general manager to sign a contract for audit services for fiscal years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 with Grove, Mueller, & Swank, P.C. for \$30,000 per year for each year. Mr. Necker supplied the second.

Ms. Towery noted that her firm, United Way, contracted with the audit firm in question, but she did not think that she had a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Necker reviewed the process that the committee used to rank the firms. He said that cost was a factor in the decision, but not the only factor.

Mr. Evans questioned the difference in costs between the two proposals. Mr. Dubick believed that it reflected the backgrounds of the firms making the proposals, one of which had extensive experience with larger transit systems and the other that had more experience with smaller systems. He added that participating in the auditor selection process gave him a better understanding of, and appreciation for, the audit process.

Mr. Necker concurred with Mr. Dubick's assessment, saying that the recommended firm appeared to be a better fit in regard to LTD's size and needs.

Mr. Eyster believed that the committee structure had worked well and it allowed some Board members to delve more deeply into subjects that were difficult to discuss in depth at Board meetings.

VOTE

Resolution 2009-016 was approved as follows:

AYES: Dubick, Eyster, Evans, Kortge, Necker, Towery (6)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

EXCUSED: Gaydos

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Board Member Reports: Mr. Eyster called attention to the summary of meetings.

Monthly Financial Report: There were no questions.

Transportation Growth Management Grant: There were no questions.

Correspondence: There were no questions.

Monthly Department Reports: Mr. Eyster solicited questions. There were none.

Monthly Performance Reports: There were no questions.


ITEMS FOR ACTION/INFORMATION AT A FUTURE MEETING

- A. Commuter Solutions Comprehensive Group Pass Research
- B. Budget Adoption
- C. LTD Boundaries
- D. Fare Policy Changes
- E. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
- F. Springfield Path Historical Project
- G. Gateway Station/EmX Extension Project Update

- H. Legislative Bill Updates
- I. Annual Performance Report
- J. West Eugene EmX Extension Update

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Eyster adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.



Board Secretary

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