

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on May 9, 2013, 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 15, 2013, beginning at 4:30 p.m., at the LTD Board Room, 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon.

Present: Doris Towery, President
Gary Gillespie, Vice President
Michael Dubick, Secretary
Ed Necker, Treasurer
Carl Yeh
Ron Kilcoyne, General Manager
Jeanne Schapper, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

Absent: Martha Reilly

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Ms. Towery convened the meeting and called the roll at 4:35 p.m.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: Ms. Towery announced that the LTD Budget Committee would meet at 6 p.m. that evening following the regular Board meeting. She reminded Board members that the conflict of interest and committee interest forms were due. Ms. Towery presented an award that LTD had received from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP). LTD was one of only five transit districts in the nation to be recognized under the Institute's high standards for bus rapid transit.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER: Mr. Kilcoyne said that LTD Bus Operator Rick Remior participated in the North American Bus Rodeo in Indianapolis, Indiana. LTD is very proud that Mr. Remior qualified to compete, as the Bus Rodeo is extremely difficult.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: There were no announcements or additions to the agenda.

BOARD CALENDARS: Mr. Kilcoyne reviewed the scheduled activities. He noted that the Board was scheduled to adopt the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 proposed budget at its June 19 meeting. He asked Board members to keep June 10 open for a Board work session that was tentatively scheduled.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: The Board recognized Bus Operator Scott Morton as the June 2013 Employee of the Month.

Ms. Towery thanked Mr. Morton for his service and dedication to LTD's mission. She presented him with a certificate of appreciation, a check, and a pin commemorating his award. Mr. Morton expressed his appreciation for the award and recognition of his work.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Ms. Towery explained the procedures for providing public testimony. There was no one present who wished to speak.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION **Consent Calendar:** Mr. Necker moved adoption of LTD Resolution No. 2013-017: It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for May 15, 2013, is approved as presented. Mr. Dubick provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the April 17, 2013, Regular Board Meeting.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
AYES: Dubick, Gillespie, Necker, Towery, Yeh (5)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Reilly

Second Reading and Adoption, Amended Fare Ordinance No. 48, and Fiscal Year 2013-14 Pricing Plan: Director of Customer Services and Planning Andy Vobora stated that the only change to Ordinance No. 48 and the associated pricing plan was an increase in group pass rates. A public hearing was held in March and the first reading was held in April. At this evening's meeting, staff were requesting a second reading and adoption. He said that the ordinance would become effective in 30 days, and that it would be implemented on January 1, 2014.

MOTION Mr. Dubick moved that Lane Transit District Ordinance No. 48 be read by title only. Mr. Gillespie provided the second.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
AYES: Dubick, Gillespie, Necker, Towery, Yeh (5)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Reilly

Ms. Towery read the ordinance by title only: "ORDINANCE NO. 48, AN ORDINANCE SETTING FARES FOR THE USE OF DISTRICT SERVICES."

MOTION Mr. Gillespie moved the following resolution: LTD Resolution No. 2013-018: Be it resolved that the LTD Board of Directors hereby adopts Lane Transit District Ordinance No. 48, an Ordinance Setting Fares for Use of District Services. Mr. Necker provided the second.

VOTE The resolution was approved as follows:
AYES: Dubick, Gillespie, Necker, Towery, Yeh (5)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: Reilly

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Board Member Reports: Mr. Dubick reported that the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Budget Committee adopted the agency's budget on May 14. He said that LCOG was doing well under new leadership.

Planning and Development Manager Tom Schwetz said that the LaneACT had a positive discussion at its May 8 meeting regarding its work program for the coming year.

Mr. Gillespie reported that he and Mr. Kilcoyne attended a meeting of the Community Advisory Group for the Oregon Rail Project as representatives from the Eugene-Springfield area. He said that the group discussed various rail routes out of the area.

Mr. Necker said that Mr. Schwetz and Senior Planner Kurt Yeiter from the City of Eugene gave a presentation to the River Road Community Organization that was very well received. He said that the meeting was well attended, and that there was enthusiasm for an EmX route in that area.

Regional Bicycle Parking Study Update: Point2point Program Manager Theresa Brand introduced Chris Watchie of Cogito, who has acted as a policy consultant to Point2point for a number of years.

Ms. Watchie provided an update on the Regional Bicycle Parking Study which examined supply and demand in the area. She said that the purpose of the study was to look at the connections between bicycles and transit; the availability of safe bicycle parking; and the development codes in Coburg, Springfield, and Eugene. She stated that bicycles had changed considerably during the past 15 years, with the emergence of recumbent bikes and bikes with trailers; those require a different type of bike parking facility. She said that the project was spearheaded by LTD, funded through the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) and involved all regional jurisdictions.

Ms. Watchie said that of particular focus in the Study were the Springfield and Eugene downtown areas and transit stations and regional activity centers such as hospitals and commercial centers. The University of Oregon (UO) campus was not included in the Study as it had its own bicycle planning process. The UO campus perimeter was included in the Study as were some of the outlying transit stations in Veneta, Creswell, and Cottage Grove.

Ms. Watchie characterized bike parking as short-term (two to three hours) and long-term (all day). She said that there was an extensive public outreach process that included a large number of stakeholder groups, interested parties, and officials throughout the area. She said that an interactive web map allowed people to indicate their bike routes, parking locations, and areas where additional parking was needed.

In response to a question from Mr. Necker, Ms. Watchie described the type of parking facilities that would be needed for bikes with trailers.

Ms. Watchie said that three models were developed for transit stations, activity centers, and downtown areas. In each model there was an identified need for increased bike parking facilities. She illustrated the type of parking needed in various locations throughout the region. The review of development codes produced a number of customized suggestions for code changes that Coburg, Springfield, and Eugene could consider. She said that next steps in the Study include prioritization, cost estimates, a local partnership workshop, and to seek funding for improvement to bicycle facilities in the region.

Ms. Brand added that a copy of the draft report will be distributed to the Board and the MPC for review. Those comments will be incorporated in a final report, which will be presented to the Board upon completion.

Long-Range Transit Plan Status: Mr. Schwetz said that LTD is very interested in improving the connection between bikes and buses. He reported that work was continuing on the Long-Range Transit Plan (LRTP), and he plans to present it to the Board in the near future. The cities of Springfield and Eugene also were nearing completion of their Transportation System Plan (TSP) updates.

Mr. Schwetz said that the LRTP would assist the Board with short-term decisions and long-term choices to achieve long-term goals. He emphasized the importance of LTD's involvement in regional transportation planning activities. The intent is to create a LRTP that is a viable document that articulates the District's vision and carries the community's aspirations forward.

Mr. Schwetz said that the heart of the LRTP consists of goals, policies, and actions that work well together. He asked the Board to review the goals and policies included in the agenda packet and to consider whether or not they are the right goals on which to focus LTD's efforts during the next five to ten years. He asked the Board to consider if the goals: 1) would prepare LTD to adapt as the future unfolds; 2) promote connectivity of services; 3) complement plans for growth in the community; and 4) deepen regional partnerships. He said that a public engagement process was being coordinated with the City of Springfield.

Mr. Schwetz stated that in June the LTD Board would continue to review and discuss the goals, policies, and actions that were being proposed; the public engagement process would continue during July and August; and the Board would hold a public hearing in October to consider adoption of the LRTP.

Surface Transportation Program-Urban (STP-U) Funding Update: Mr. Schwetz provided an overview of STP-U grant applications being submitted by LTD. He explained that STP-U funds are the only discretionary funding source for the region, and are allocated through the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC). He said that funds were allocated to planning activities, transportation demand management, and capital projects. He said that the funds being applied for could be available as soon as October 2013. LTD will submit applications for the following projects:

- Pavilion Station: An additional boarding platform at the north end of the RiverBend Medical Center campus (\$700,000).
- The Northwest Eugene-Lane Community College Transit Corridor Plan: Preliminary corridor planning and design (\$800,000), submitted jointly with the City of Eugene.
- The Eugene Bike Share System: A feasibility study to evaluate a broader community bike share system to connect the University of Oregon system with the downtown core of Eugene and adjacent neighborhoods (\$100,000, submitted jointly with the City of Eugene).
- Regional Safe Routes to Schools Project: Continue to expand on the current Point2point Safe Routes to School programs in Bethel and Eugene 4J School District, and expand into the Springfield school districts (\$248,000).

Ms. Brand added that an application would not be submitted for Point2point's Bicycle Parking Equipment Funding project due to the large number of funding requests being submitted throughout the region for STP-U funds. She said that staff compile information from the Bicycle Parking Study and use that as a basis to apply for additional funding sources.

In response to a question from Mr. Dubick, Mr. Schwetz said that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) would receive \$7.5 million in STP-U funds in FY 2014-2015.

Mr. Gillespie asked if LTD staff are working to recoup the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) funds that were lost in order to restore the school bus pass program. Mr. Schwetz said that staff are consistently seeking funding, but that program would not be eligible for STP-U funding.

Bus Service Expansion Requests: Mr. Vobora noted that the Board frequently receives requests for expansion of bus service. He said that the Service Planning staff evaluate those requests using the following criteria:

- Cost
- Effect on current customers
- Potential for new customers
- Effect on route running time
- Effect on transfer connections
- Routing safety
- Municipal approval to operate on streets owned by those jurisdictions
- Priority of request compared with other system needs

Mr. Vobora said that LTD's budget during the past few years had not allocated funds for additional service beyond service fixes. He said that a discussion regarding how to prioritize expansion requests could begin with the Service Committee and continue with the LTD Board as there would be a number of expansion requests in the future. He said that a description of recent service expansion requests was included in the agenda packet, and while the costs were not high, the additional service was not currently included in the Long-Range Financial Plan. He suggested that establishing priorities for service expansions would be useful if the economy recovered to the extent that service adjustments were feasible in the future. He said that it is

challenging to know that the needs exist but the agency lacks the resources to meet those needs.

Mr. Necker asked about the status of reassigning the 51/52/40 routes. Mr. Vobora replied that reassignment was not moving forward based on the staff analysis and customer feedback. He said that a minor change was made to the outbound Route No. 52 to match the Route No. 51, but no substantive changes were planned.

Mr. Gillespie asked about a possible adjustment to Route No. 27 that would allow it to connect with the edge of the University of Oregon campus. Mr. Vobora said that a number of options were explored to convert it to a true neighborhood connector route, but it was determined that they were not feasible on a 30-minute cycle.

Mr. Vobora said that he sent a letter to Bob Macherione regarding his request that LTD provide bus service to the apartments on Brewer Avenue.

Ms. Towery commented that the LRFP includes increases in the payroll tax rate. She asked if there was a plan to use the additional funds to provide additional service rather than sustain current operations. Mr. Vobora stated that the funds would be used to maintain existing services until reserves were built up and revenue increased in the out years beyond FY 2017-18. He agreed that there was a need to demonstrate added value to the community when the tax rate increased.

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Kilcoyne stated that revenues are exceeding projections, and expenses are below projections.

Monthly Department Reports: Mr. Vobora stated that overall ridership numbers remain flat. However, April was another record month for EmX ridership, which continued to grow.

Ms. Brand informed the Board that it was Business Commute Challenge Week, and there were 1,980 participants enrolled to date. She was pleased with the publicity for the project and the associated events.

Mr. Yeh asked if EmX frequency was increased on event days at Matthew Knight Arena. Mr. Vobora replied that typically extra buses were added between the Agate Station and downtown Eugene and Springfield.

Mr. Gillespie commented that LTD's Eugene Station was listed as a recruitment point during a recent presentation at a gang prevention work group.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Towery adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT



Michael Dubick
Board Secretary

ATTEST:



Jeanne Schapper
Clerk of the Board