

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on November 14, 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, November 20, 2013, beginning at 5:30 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
Gary Wildish
Carl Yeh

Vacant – Position 7

Ron Kilcoyne, General Manager
Jeanne Schapper, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Ms. Towery convened the meeting and called the roll at 5:32 p.m.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: Ms. Towery announced that the governor would be reappointing Mr. Necker and Mr. Gillespie to the LTD Board of Directors, pending Senate confirmation.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER: Mr. Kilcoyne noted that the vacant position formerly held by Dr. Martha Reilly would likely be filled after the first of the year. He congratulated Mr. Necker and Mr. Gillespie on their reappointments.

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

BOARD CALENDARS: Mr. Kilcoyne briefly reviewed the scheduled activities. He noted that a Board luncheon will be held on January 21 to discuss the subject of economic recovery.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: The Board recognized Operations Supervisor Charlett Trauger as the December Employee of the Month. Ms. Towery thanked Ms. Trauger for her outstanding customer service and dedication to LTD's mission and presented her with a certificate of appreciation, a check, and a pin commemorating her award. Ms. Trauger thanked the Board for the recognition and expressed appreciation for her position with the District.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Ms. Towery explained the procedures for providing public testimony.

Bob Macherione, Eugene, representing Our Money, Our Transit (OMOT), commented that the current performance report demonstrated that his predictions were coming true. He said that a bus system that did not rely on peak hour/peak direction usage resulted in a contraction of the service area and lower ridership. He said he felt that the loss of some basic services meant that the system now served many college students but fewer members of the general public. Mr. Macherione stated that operating an EmX vehicle was about 40 percent more expensive than operating a regular bus and had higher maintenance costs. He said he felt that the District was going in the wrong direction, and he asked that LTD consider returning to peak direction/peak ridership, to operate enough buses for those times, and then move to 15-minute service. He said that more basic service would be lost if LTD continued on its present course.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING

MOTION **Consent Calendar:** Mr. Necker moved adoption of LTD Resolution No. 2013-029: It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for November 20, 2013, is approved as presented. Mr. Wildish provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the minutes of the October 16, 2013, Regular Board Meeting.

VOTE The Consent Calendar was approved as follows:
AYES: Dubick, Gillespie, Necker, Towery, Yeh, Wildish (6)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: None

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING

Board Member Reports: Mr. Gillespie said that the Oregon Passenger Rail Leadership Council would issue a route recommendation in December. He stated that an issue of concern was Corvallis, which was off the Union Pacific Railroad line. He said that he would recommend that a means be found to include Corvallis in the route by connecting it to Albany, forego any of the tunnel options in Portland, and keep the route consistent through Portland.

Mr. Necker said that, as part of its grant review process, the Accessible Transportation Committee received informative presentations from the Pearl Buck Preschool and South Lane Wheels.

Mr. Gillespie conveyed a request received from both Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and a member of the public to the LTD Board of Directors for LTD and TriMet to consider accepting each other's passes as a way to facilitate connectivity between rail and transit in both communities. Mr. Kilcoyne agreed to contact TriMet.

Mr. Necker said that an issue to consider was whether or not the passes would be accepted at any time or only on the day of rail travel.

Board Committee Assignments: Ms. Towery briefly reviewed the Board committee assignments. She noted Mr. Gillespie's interest in being a representative on the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC), and assured the Board that assignments would be reviewed again in June 2014. In the meantime, Mr. Gillespie would remain an alternate Board representative to the MPC.

Finding of Economic Recovery Progress: Government Relations Manager Edward McGlone said that he did not expect any problems or delays in the full Senate vote that is the final step in the confirmation process regarding the reappointments of Mr. Necker and Mr. Gillespie. The vote is scheduled for tomorrow (November 21, 2013).

Mr. McGlone stated that in order for the District to adopt an increase in the payroll tax increment currently being collected for public transportation, it was necessary for the Board to establish that the economy had recovered sufficiently to warrant an increase in the tax. Historically, this process has included surveys of the local business community and review of statistics relevant to the economy. He said that a Request for Proposals to conduct the research had been issued, and LTD had reached an agreement with the consulting firm, ECONorthwest. Mr. McGlone stated that the research would begin in January 2014, following the January 21 Board meeting/luncheon that will also include ECONorthwest representatives and community business leaders. At this meeting, the group will discuss the process, including metrics and outreach strategies. He expects a report to be issued sometime in June 2014.

Mr. McGlone noted that the vast majority (77 percent) of business taxpayers in the District paid \$400 or less annually. The outreach process would assure that their voices were heard, along with the businesses that paid larger amounts. He said that outreach efforts would focus on explaining the payroll tax increase, which would be needed irrespective of ongoing EmX operations.

Ms. Towery said that the recent Regional Prosperity Summit held by the University of Oregon and the cities of Eugene and Springfield concluded that the economy is recovering. She said that the discussions that were held would be a good source of feedback from the business community.

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Update: Accessible and Customer Services Manager Cosette Rees explained that Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) was one component of the services operated through the RideSource Call Center brokerage. She said that the Call Center coordinated 17 programs for human services transportation, using its own fleet of vehicles and also contracting with private providers.

Ms. Rees said that LTD began coordinating NEMT through a contract with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in May 2008 at the launch of the brokerage. The purpose was to identify the least costly, most appropriate method of transportation for eligible participants. She added that, initially, LTD was paid on a per-ride rate and the actual cost was reconciled annually with OHA.

In response to a question from Mr. Necker, Ms. Rees said that the state was initially interested in having non-emergency ambulance service incorporated into the RideSource Call Center and other brokerages around the state; but it was determined that those trips were so specific and unique that the original system remained in place, and the service was operated through regional Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO). Trillium Community Health Plans was the regional CCO; and LTD began contracting with Trillium, rather than OHA, in June 2013 to operate the NEMT program.

Ms. Rees said that in January 2014, eligibility for transportation services would be greatly expanded; and, as a result, staff estimated that monthly trips would increase from the current number of 13,000 to 16,650. She noted that a very low percentage of those eligible actually use the program.

Mr. Yeh asked why there was not greater use of the transportation benefit by Oregon Health Plan participants. Ms. Rees said that the service had not been well promoted, and LTD was partnering

with Trillium to help educate people about the benefit. She added that there would be a number of challenges in the future, including:

- Expanding capacity
- Adding two positions to the RideSource Call Center to handle increased demand
- Tracking usage and monitoring quality
- Responding to concerns and ensuring quality
- Continuing coordination

Mr. Necker asked if private providers were resistant to the training required for providing NEMT service. Ms. Rees replied that there was more training and random drug testing required for NEMT service provision, and LTD was asking providers to expand the number of operators who met those requirements. She said that most providers recognized the value of having qualified operators, although a few were resistant.

Monthly Financial Report: Director of Finance and Information Technology Diane Hellekson said that the District's financial status continued to be positive. As of October 31, 2013, payroll tax receipts were up 5.4 percent, which is consistent with the budget and the Long-Range Financial Plan. Other forms of tax receipts also were higher. Fuel costs were somewhat higher because the District was drawing on its reserves, fuel prices on the open market had fallen, and the more expensive stored fuel was being used and replaced by lower cost fuel. She stated that personnel services looked good due to the retirement of senior employees who were being replaced by entry-level staff, and also payment of the administrative pension plan unfunded liability in four equal amounts over the course of the fiscal year. Ms. Hellekson said that the Board would receive the independent audit report and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in December.

Mr. Wildish asked how frequently the pension plan unfunded liability was evaluated. Ms. Hellekson said that an actuarial analysis was conducted every two years.

Monthly Department Reports: Mr. Gillespie stated his appreciation for the thorough explanation of the single bid on the West Eugene EmX Extension project and selection of Wildish Construction as the contractor.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Towery adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

ATTEST:

Michael Dubick
Board Secretary

Jeanne Schapper
Clerk of the Board