

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, April 6, 2015

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on April 2, 2015, 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 Monday, April 6, 2015, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Eugene Public Library, Bascom-Tykeson Room, 100 W. 10th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon.

Present: Gary Wildish, President
Carl Yeh, Vice President
Julie Grossman, Secretary
Ed Necker, Treasurer
Gary Gillespie
Angelynn Pierce

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

Vacant: Position 3

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mr. Wildish convened the meeting and called the roll.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: Mr. Wildish expressed his appreciation to members of the public for attending the meeting, the purpose of which was to conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2015 service package.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER: None.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2015 ANNUAL ROUTE REVIEW: Mr. Wildish called for the staff presentation.

Service Planner Tim Simon said that the purpose of Annual Route Reviews (ARR) is the continuous improvement of the transit system in consultation with passengers and operators. He shared positive results from the 2014 ARR, which made significant changes involving service additions, modifying route alignments, and expanding coverage. He said that every route to which changes were made experienced a net increase to ridership. He said that service on most holidays also was restored.

Mr. Simon said that a new approach was taken during the 2015 ARR that created an ongoing conversation between LTD and the public. Although the new approach would include the current steps of creating a list of proposals, gathering input, refining the proposals based on input, and action by the Board, it would not begin with a blank slate at the first step. He said that a list of proposals that were desirable, but could not be implemented because of lack of funding, would be maintained in a mid-range plan and serve as the starting point for future ARR.

Mr. Simon said that more than 2,000 people provided input regarding transit system improvements. At the top of the list were increased frequency of buses, expansion of late night service, limited airport service, and the restoration of the student transit pass program. With those as the foundation, a package of proposed changes for the 2015 ARR was developed. Final recommendations took into account feedback from the public and LTD employees who interacted with customers, as well as regional community development initiatives. He said that LTD was working with the City of Eugene, the Eugene Airport, and other partners to develop an airport connector service using route No. 95 along with shuttle service. He reviewed other specific route modifications in the proposed package. He said that along with previously described input, other factors that influenced the decisions of service planners included overcrowded buses, late buses, and providing service where it would be successful (the frequent transit network).

Mr. Simon said that ARRs were part of LTD's effort to address community needs. The 2015 ARR addressed identified needs by operating later buses on core routes, increasing frequency on core routes, and maintaining the system by filling gaps in service.

Mr. Wildish opened the public hearing and explained the procedure for providing testimony.

Paul Blaylock, Eugene, said that he liked the proposed changes to the No. 95 route and other service additions. He said that a mid-afternoon trip on Saturdays was needed on the No. 95, along with a mid-morning trip on weekdays.

Wayne Lottinville, Eugene, commented on the difficulty of planning service changes and commended the planning department. He spoke to the problems that riders experienced when making connections within the system, and said that the number of route No. 67 buses scheduled to arrive shortly after the hour or half-hour had increased by 500 percent between 2013 and 2014, thereby guaranteeing missed connections. He said that late scheduling of buses between the Valley River Station and the Downtown Station was unnecessary and was only done because it was determined that 30 percent of them were found to be arriving after the hour and half-hour connection times. He suggested printing a notice on bus schedules that it might be necessary to take an earlier bus in order to make a connection. He said that he did not mind if a bus was late due to problems encountered on the route, but he objected to purposely scheduling a late arrival just because the bus occasionally arrived late. He submitted a written copy of his testimony.

Robert Hendrix, Eugene, stated that he is disabled, no longer drives a car, and has been a half-fare passenger on LTD buses for five years. He said that he is active in the community, routinely frequents core routes, and has been on most routes at some point. He said that he has worked as a language arts and special education teacher in public schools and has encountered the full spectrum of individuals with special needs on a daily basis, as did LTD bus operators. He commended operators for their ability to handle difficult and challenging situations well. He said that an issue that sometimes causes distress for both operators and special needs riders is the transportation of service dogs. Riders who follow the rules suffer when others violate the laws and policing related to service dogs. He proposed a policy that would alleviate those problems and avoid subjecting those who follow the rules to situations that violate their rights. Speaking on behalf of the Veterans Health Administration in Roseburg, the Eugene Veterans Advocacy Council, and other veterans' organizations in Lane County, he proposed that when documentation was presented showing the disability of a rider and additional certification from Eugene or Lane County animal licensing as a trained service dog, that the photograph taken by LTD include both the rider and his/her service dog.

Matt Laubach, Eugene, stated that he was elated with the proposal to increase the frequency and span of service because the bus was his only transportation. He said that service changes in past years had presented challenges, such as lengthy waits on the No. 66 and No. 67 routes in the evening. He said that he wanted to see a schedule that would not require a timetable in order to know when the next bus was coming because the next bus would always arrive in a reasonable amount of time. He also said that he was pleased with the addition of airport service and hoped to see service eventually extended to Florence.

Erin DeBailo, Springfield, said that she was pleased with the addition of later service, which would prevent her from missing her connection and having to walk home.

Mr. Wildish determined there was no one else wishing to testify.

Mr. Gillespie asked the general manager to review LTD's service animal policy. He said that the Eugene Library had experienced problems similar to those described by Mr. Hendrix. Director of Transit Operations Mark Johnson replied that staff are updating the policy to require licensing of service animals, which is provided by the cities and and county without charge.

Mr. Wildish closed the public hearing.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING:

General Manager Retirement: Director of Administrative Services Roland Hoskins asked the Board to provide direction on how to move forward with the general manager succession process. He suggested that the Board's Human Relations Committee work with staff to develop the next steps in the process. As a preliminary step, he asked the Board to authorize staff to develop a request for proposals (RFP) for a firm to assist in the recruitment process.

MOTION Mr. Necker moved the following resolution: LTD Resolution No. 2015-010: Be it resolved that the LTD Board of Directors accepts the retirement of LTD General Manager Ron Kilcoyne and directs LTD staff to begin the recruitment process. Ms. Pierce provided the second.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
AYES: Gillespie, Grossman, Necker, Pierce, Wildish, Yeh (6)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: None

MOTION Mr. Necker moved to direct staff to move forward with the next steps in the recruitment process and convene the Board's Human Relations Committee. Mr. Gillespie provided the second.

Mr. Gillespie asked if it was possible to use the same firm that was selected for the previous recruitment process when Mr. Kilcoyne was hired. Mr. Hoskins said it was preferable to issue a new RFP based on the previous RFP template and using the same timeline. Mr. Kilcoyne added that the District's procurement policy requires issuance of a new RFP with any new selection process.

VOTE The motion was approved as follows:
AYES: Gillespie, Grossman, Necker, Pierce, Wildish, Yeh (6)
NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
EXCUSED: None

Board members congratulated Mr. Kilcoyne on his retirement and commended his efforts on behalf of the District.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Wildish adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT:

ATTEST:

Julie Grossman
Board Secretary

Jeanne Schapper
Clerk of the Board

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