

MINUTES OF JOINT
LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS/EUGENE CITY COUNCIL
JOINT WORK SESSION
Monday, May 11, 2015

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on May 7, 2015, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District and the Eugene City Council held a joint work session on Monday, May 11, 2015, at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Avenue, Eugene, at 5:30 p.m.

Lane Transit District Board Present:

Gary Wildish, President
Carl Yeh, Vice President
Julie Grossman, Secretary
Ed Necker, Treasurer
Angelynn Pierce
Gary Gillespie
Vacant, Position 3
Ron Kilcoyne, General Manager

Eugene City Council Present:

Mayor Kitty Piercy
Councilors:
George Brown
Betty Taylor
Alan Zelenka
George Poling
Mike Clark
Greg Evans
Claire Syrett
Chris Pryor
Minutes Recorder: Chuck Crockett

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Eugene Mayor Piercy called the joint work session to order, and LTD Board President Wildish called the joint work session to order.

WORK SESSION: MovingAhead (Key Corridor Study) – City of Eugene Transportation Planning Engineer Chris Henry, City of Eugene Senior Planner Terri Harding, and LTD Transit Development Planner Sasha Luftig showed a PowerPoint presentation on the LTD MovingAhead program.

Mr. Henry introduced the MovingAhead team, gave a brief introduction on the MovingAhead program, and showed a map of the envisioned bus rapid transit system build-out. Ms. Harding explained the seven pillars of Envision Eugene as including compact development, efficient transportation, climate and energy reliance, and neighborhood livability. She expressed that transit improvements need to be planned in collaboration with biking and walking improvements. Ms. Harding said that a well-planned transportation system provides safe and accessible transportation for everyone while supporting great neighborhoods, healthy people, and a healthy economy. She noted that MovingAhead builds on the land use and transportation planning framework developed by the cities of Eugene and Springfield. The cities are asking the community for approval at a system-wide level rather than a corridor-by-corridor level as has been done historically. Ms. Harding explained that the MovingAhead approach is a new and distinctly different approach to planning than has previously been used. She said that the MovingAhead approach looks at the system in its entirety as opposed to corridor by corridor.

Ms. Luftig displayed a map of MovingAhead corridors and listed the corridors that are part of the MovingAhead project. Ms. Luftig explained that looking at improvement plans from a system-wide level instead of corridor by corridor allows for more efficient long-term planning and enables the ability to meet the long-term needs of the community more effectively and efficiently. Ms. Luftig noted that the Main-McVay corridor shown on the map is a separate project in partnership with the City of Springfield and is not part of the MovingAhead project. Ms. Luftig went on to explain the Purpose and Needs, Goals and Objectives statement for the MovingAhead project. She said that there are two steps to the planning phase of the MovingAhead project: screening of the seven corridors and evaluation in further detail of up to four corridors. Ms. Luftig explained the decision-making process of the project and the parties, both internal and external to the organization that will be part of the process. Ms. Luftig noted that the Oversight Committee would review and approve the Purpose and Needs, Goals and Objectives statement. Ms. Luftig described the MovingAhead project schedule in detail.

Mr. Henry reiterated the purpose of the MovingAhead project. He explained the importance of obtaining community input regarding the transportation needs of the community. Mr. Henry listed out the community outreach of which the MovingAhead team is actively engaged. Mr. Henry said that the MovingAhead team will be holding five workshops throughout the month of May, and he explained their purpose.

Mayor Piercy expressed appreciation for the efficient approach to route planning and expansion. She expressed pleasure that the planning was happening so far ahead and that the process was being so inclusive in seeking community feedback. She said that she would like to hear more about narrowing down to four corridors and how it can be done. Ms. Luftig explained that the decision to narrow to four corridors was based on applying a system-level approach and budget. Mr. Henry explained that community input and environmental impact also played roles on narrowing to four corridors and in choosing the corridors on which to focus.

Mayor Piercy expressed the importance of everyone working together and being on the same page for system planning. She noted the importance of connecting with rail during the MovingAhead program.

Councilor Polling expressed concern about where the map shows the Coburg Road corridor planning area ends. He said that the Chad Drive/Crescent area has the most population increase and has a proposal for a new subdivision. He said that he thinks an extension to that area would be valuable. He said that he receives a lot of community inquiry and feedback about pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly routes, and the safety challenges children face. He said that he would like to know the possibilities of expanding to that area. Ms. Luftig explained that the team went through a fatal flaw exercise with regional partners, which included all corridors that had been identified as part of LTD's frequent transit network. She described the frequent transit network as providing 15-minute increment or better service per hour. She also explained that the system routes shown on the map are a starting point; the map shows only high-level service routes. She said that expanding past Beltline Road is a possibility as determined by community feedback. Councilor Polling stated that he thinks that the team should take a serious look at expanding that corridor.

Councilor Syrett expressed her approval of the sounding board. She asked what strategies, other than bus rapid transit, will be identified for the mentioned corridors. Ms. Luftig explained that a traditional fixed-route system would continue to be used, in addition to enhanced corridors

with infrastructure improvements, to allow for more efficient movement of buses. She noted that the infrastructure improvements could include queue jumps, which aid in buses merging into traffic with fewer traffic interruptions. Ms. Luftig explained that this would be in conjunction with in-depth conversations among the affected communities to establish the specific needs for each area.

Councilor Pryor emphasized the importance of looking ahead to what the community needs when planning the future of transit.

Councilor Clark expressed his appreciation for everyone coming together so well in this planning process. He asked about the timing of work and completion of the Transportation System Plan project and Envision Eugene and how they integrate.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Piercy adjourned the joint work session at 6:09 p.m.; LTD Board President Wildish adjourned the joint work session at 6:09 p.m.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT:

ATTEST:

Julie Grossman
Board Secretary

Jeanne Schapper
Clerk of the Board