

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 20, 2016

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on January 13, 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 Wednesday, January 20, 2016, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the LTD Board Room, 3500 E. 17th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon.

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

A. J. Jackson, General Manager
Jeanne Schapper, Clerk of the Board
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

Absent: Gary Gillespie

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Mr. Wildish convened the meeting at 5:33 p.m. and called the roll.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: Mr. Wildish said that he had an opportunity to attend a neighborhood association meeting at which LTD's MovingAhead project was discussed. He said that he found the group's discussion informative and thought-provoking.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER: Ms. Jackson reported that United Front partners were going to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of Oregon's congressional delegation and garner support for local priorities such as education, business, transportation, natural resources, public safety, and finance. This is an annual trip among regional partners, and she said that speaking as a united community with one voice had proven to be successful in the past.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

BOARD CALENDARS: Ms. Jackson briefly reviewed coming Board activities. She encouraged Board members to attend the December 17 employee potluck.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — FEBRUARY 2016: The Board recognized Bus Operator Ed Martin as the February Employee of the Month. Mr. Wildish presented Mr. Martin with his award and thanked him for his outstanding service and dedication to LTD's mission. Mr. Martin thanked the Board for his award.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Mr. Wildish explained the procedures for providing testimony to the Board.

Kathleen Brandt, Eugene, discussed a recent situation that she had experienced. She said that she had three children, and it was important to her that they grew up comfortable using public transportation. She explained that her 16-year-old preferred to ride her bicycle or walk but on a recent evening, had agreed to take the bus to a concert due to the weather. Ms. Brandt accompanied her daughter to the bus stop at 19th Avenue and Alder Street, arriving on time; but the bus was late, and she had to drive her daughter to the event. Ms. Brandt said that teenagers' experiences with public transportation would prove valuable as they forged life-long habits. It was important for them to feel that transit was reliable in order to become life-long bus riders.

Brian Casady, Eugene, with Meadow Outdoor Advertising, expressed his appreciation to the Board for LTD's quick response to his concerns regarding the landscape design along the 6th and 7th avenues portion of the West Eugene EmX corridor. He and other property owners had met with LTD staff that day, and he looked forward to working with them in the future to mitigate those concerns.

Robert Drake, Springfield, said he was a resident of downtown Springfield and a candidate for mayor. He explained that due to the loss of his vehicle, he had ridden the bus for several months. He asked for a show of hands from Board members and staff about their use of the bus on a regular basis. He said that he felt it was important that people making decisions about transit service be familiar with the system. He stated that he thought Springfield was underserved by the transit system, in part because of the hub design that provided no connections among outlying areas, thereby requiring riders to travel into the hub and transfer. He said that this added significant travel time and lowered the productivity of system users. He described a system in the Ukraine that used small vehicles that ran continuously throughout a city of 500,000, allowing passengers to reach their destinations within 20 minutes.

ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING:

LTD Board Budget Committee Appointment: Finance Manager Todd Lipkin explained that there were two candidates for the open Budget Committee seat. He described their backgrounds and said both were well qualified for the position.

Mr. Yeh nominated Scott Diehl as the citizen member of the LTD Board Budget Committee for Subdistrict 3, for a three-year term beginning January 20, 2016.

Mr. Nordin nominated Kevin Matthews as the citizen member of the LTD Board Budget Committee for Subdistrict 3, for a three-year term beginning January 20, 2016.

Mr. Yeh said he had nominated Mr. Diehl because of his background as a certified public accountant and experience with operating budgets.

Mr. Nordin said he was acquainted with Mr. Matthews through his political activities in the community and felt he also was qualified for the position.

VOTE The Board members voted as follows:

Scott Diehl – Wildish, Yeh, Grossman, Pierce, Necker (5)
Kevin Matthews - Nordin (1)

Mr. Wildish announced that Scott Diehl is appointed to the LTD Board Budget Committee.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING:

Board Member Reports: Ms. Pierce reported that there had been excellent communication among members during the December 17 Main Street Governance Team meeting and that the project was progressing well. She said that it was a cohesive team effort to study the potential expansion of transit down Springfield's Main Street.

Mr. Nordin said that he agreed that the meeting had been very positive and Team members were pleased with the outcome.

Mr. Wildish reported that the Governor's Transportation Vision Panel Regional Forum was informative and productive. He said that the importance of transit to the region was expressed by many in attendance.

Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS) Certification: Director of Customer Services and Planning Andy Vobora displayed the ESMS certificate that was awarded to LTD. He said that LTD was the first transit district in the state and one of only 13 in the nation to achieve certification. He said that staff were updating the significant aspects list and transitioning to new ESMS standards, which had been collapsed from seventeen elements to nine. Some staff would attend training on the new standards.

SmartTrips: Main Street, Springfield, Program Update: Point2point Program Manager Theresa Brand explained that the SmartTrips program provided education and outreach in the community to encourage the use of alternative transportation modes. Program objectives included expanding the awareness of transportation modes, increasing the use of alternative modes, and increasing bike and pedestrian activities in certain corridors. She used maps to illustrate the project area and identify sites with major safety challenges. She described the variety of events and activities conducted as part of the program to provide information on transportation choices and reinforce the use of alternate modes.

Ms. Brand said that this was the fourth SmartTrips program, and the participation rate of 14 percent was the highest yet and on par with others in the region. She said there was a 6.7 percent reduction in drive-alone trips, and a 2.5 percent increase each in transit trips and in carpool trips. She said that an additional program, which would include 63rd Street through the end of Springfield and into Thurston, would be conducted in the coming year and involve about 3,000 households. She said that safety education and outreach would be conducted in conjunction with the City of Springfield and Oregon Department of Transportation.

In response to a question from Mr. Nordin, Ms. Brand said that evaluation data was collected pre- and post-program through travel surveys of households within the program area to determine whether or not there had been changes in travel choices. She said that there was typically a comparable response rate to pre- and post-program surveys that was statistically valid for program assessment purposes.

Ms. Grossman asked how neighborhoods were selected for program delivery. Ms. Brand replied that there were several methods, including the existence of a new infrastructure area or a defined neighborhood, or identifying an area on the map with an appropriate number of households.

Mr. Wildish expressed his appreciation of the manner in which the report explained how results were achieved and measured.

Ms. Grossman also commended the report and expressed her appreciation for the program that delivered positive results in the community.

Ms. Brand said that the program was trying to shift the norm, which took some time; but as community benefits were demonstrated, she expected to see trends demonstrate shifts in travel mode choices over time.

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Lipkin noted that the cost of fuel was still dropping, with prices now at the 2004 level. He explained that the impact of the January 1, 2016, payroll tax rate increase would be assessed when the first returns were received at the beginning of May 2016. He said that all costs in the General Fund were under budget, as was the Accessible Services transfer. He said that LTD was in the process of applying for multiple smaller projects that could provide additional funding for Accessible Services.

Mr. Lipkin stated that the Medicaid Fund had a gap for the non-emergency medical transportation service, which was the brokered service provided through the RideSource Call Center. He said that a per-member, per-month rate was negotiated in January 2015 based upon usage estimates. Since that time, the rolls of eligible participants increased substantially due to outreach by Trillium, and usage of the medical transport service also had skyrocketed. He said that staff were discussing with Trillium how to mitigate that gap and increase the reimbursement rate in the future.

Mr. Nordin asked if the usage rate was likely to fluctuate. Mr. Lipkin said that he did not expect to see any significant decrease in the use of the benefit in the future, which was why staff were discussing a rate structure with Trillium that better aligned with utilization.

Ms. Jackson commented that the provision of non-emergency medical transportation would be an item for consideration during the budget process as the current trend was unsustainable.

Monthly Engagement Reports: There were no questions or comments.

Monthly Performance Reports: Mr. Nordin observed that the District was still seeing a drop in ridership.

Ms. Jackson said that staff were seeking to understand any new patterns of ridership that may have developed as the economy recovered, reassess how transit services were being provided, and learn how to attract riders back to transit. She said that she expected a spike in ridership when the West Eugene EmX line opened. In the meantime, staff are working to develop an action plan to address current ridership levels.

Ms. Pierce asked if there had been any recovery from the drop experienced in the Gateway area due to construction at the Gateway Mall. Mr. Vobora said that while the mall had reopened, construction on the pedestrian walkway had yet to be completed. Limited pedestrian access, low fuel prices, and slow restoration of the 2010 service reductions were some of the factors that continued to have an impact on ridership.

Monthly Grants Report: There were no questions or comments.

Monthly Department Reports: There were no questions or comments.

Other Business: Mr. Nordin asked if design of the River Road Station was underway. With respect to development of the River Road property, Planning and Development Manager Tom Schwetz said that the District had applied for a *ConnectOregon* grant to help build the Santa Clara Community Transit Center. In the meantime, consultants would assist with the land use process to subdivide the portion LTD needed from the other sections that would eventually be sold for other uses. He said there had been interest from entities in the community in purchasing the portion of the property not needed by LTD.

Mr. Nordin said that he hoped that the new station design would include solar collection for the site.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Wildish adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT:

ATTEST:

Julie Grossman
Board Secretary

Jeanne Schapper
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved: _____