
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 10, 2015**

Present

Members: President Allan Pollock, Vice President Julie Brown, Treasurer Doug Pilant, Cynda Bruce (by phone), Aaron Deas, Karen Friend (by phone), Ron Kilcoyne, Ernie Palmer, Lisa Scherf, Elaine Wells

Guests: Cassie Mance (ODOT), Julie Wehling (City of Canby), Andi Howell (City of Sandy—by phone), Stephan Lashbrook, Edward McGlone (Lane Transit District)

Staff: Kelly Ross (Western Advocates), Drew Hagedorn and Rocky Dallum (Tonkon Torp)

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by President Allan Pollock.

Agenda

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Pilant, to approve the agenda. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Kilcoyne, to approve the September 15th Board meeting minutes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized October report and highlighted the high percentage of public fund dues already received for the 2015-16 fiscal year. Palmer asked whether any regular members had failed to renew their memberships—Ross said he would check and report back at the next Board meeting.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn reported that Legislative Days at the capitol are coming up on Monday, November 16th. He hasn't seen any indication of legislative activity in 2016 that would impact transit—there is the possibility of a special session at some point in 2016 to discuss alternate tax proposals.

Hagedorn summarized the discussion under way regarding a transportation package—House Republicans are still not willing to support any gas tax increase without changes to the clean fuels requirements. He also reported on an Oregon Transportation Forum event that featured a Washington state legislator and a member of the Utah business coalition, both of whom had been closely involved in significant transportation funding increases in their states—they discussed their successful strategies.

Within the OTF there will be a group working on policy issues and another working on data and research. The legislative “Gang of Eight” will continue their work and discussions.

Palmer asked Hagedorn to keep in mind that all transit providers are facing huge challenges in continuing their operations—legislators need to be made aware that any new regulations have a cost of compliance and the cumulative impacts are crushing.

Brown asked about transportation modeling—the only MPO that has transit modeling capacity is Metro, none of the others are able to include consideration of transit. The MPOs meet quarterly in Eugene and Brown urged everyone to pay attention to them.

Stanchfield asked whether the clean fuels standards will impose a higher mileage requirement on Oregon vehicles—Hagedorn said that this isn't yet clear as there are many variables.

Executive Director's Report

Review of 2015 Conference/Evaluation Survey – Board members expressed strong satisfaction with the conference and thought things went very well and speakers were good. Palmer suggested including someone from Uber as a future conference speaker as there seems to be great interest in their operations and how their system can be applied generally. Pollock offered Salem-Keizer's connector system for a future conference session, saying that there are similarities to Uber.

Possible Date Change for 2016 Conference – Ross reported that the current dates for the 2016 conference in Seaside are problematic for ODOT staff due to major multi-day meetings close to the current schedule of Oct. 16-19. An alternate option is to change the dates to Oct. 30-Nov. 2nd. After discussing the matter, the consensus of the Board was that having the conference during Halloween could have a significant impact on attendance and the dates should not change.

Bus Roadeo – Stanchfield reported that the Bus Roadeo was very successful and that CTAA extended an invitation for the 2016 Oregon Roadeo to take place in conjunction with its May national roadeo in Portland. CTAA said the Oregon Roadeo was one of the best that they have seen at the state level.

ODOT/PTD Report

No report

Agency Updates

- Howell (City of Sandy) – Working on extensive reporting.
- Friend (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council) – Working on fine tuning their recent major service expansion and experiencing a significant ridership increase.
- Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – Updating their human services plan.
- Kilcoyne (Lane Transit District) – The Sierra Club had targeted Eugene to influence the purchase of electric buses, but discovered that LTD was already planning to do so and have finalized details on an order for five all-electric buses and five hybrid diesel-electric vehicles. Ridership continues to drop and LTD is trying to figure out why. The planning process for the next EMX expansion is going forward.

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- Pilant (Tillamook Transportation District) – Ridership is up 5% year-to-date; making progress on a new transit development plan; and starting the strategic planning process for the Northwest Connector.
 - Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – For the fifth year in a row property taxes have stayed flat; just completed the first step in the state pricing agreement and found it much more complicated than previous versions. Ridership is down 3%, but revenue is up.
 - Deas (TriMet) – Ten cars were removed from MAX service due to driving through high water in late October; just did a tour of the likely route for the Powell-Division rapid bus line and was impressed; TriMet’s labor situation could be heating up. This prompted a question from Pilant about whether it might be good to re-start the Transit Labor Exchange—consensus of the Board is that re-starting it would be beneficial.
 - Lashbrook (City of Wilsonville) – FTA denied the joint application from SMART and Salem-Keizer for funding to purchase five vehicles (to be split between the two agencies)—said that all five had to be at one location.
 - Wehling (City of Canby) – In the process of ordering three new busses through the new state procurement process.
 - Wells (Ride Connection) – Didn’t re-apply for the ? contract as it just wasn’t sustainable for them—First Transit will be taking it over. New service to North Hillsboro started on November 9th; volunteer recruitment is way up.
 - Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Ridership is down with a significant decrease in revenue, due to the Transit Operations Fee automatically adjusting downward with the lower price of gas; the City Council is looking at options for additional sources for transit funding.
 - Stanchfield (Creative Bus Sales) – Trying to hire two new sales people and two mechanics; working on RFQs.
 - Brown (Rogue Valley Transit District) – Ridership is down 21%; had two new board members join in May, then had two board members resign, so now have four new board members. Considering going out in May for another property tax levy ballot measure. Also highlighted the memo from the FTA regarding advertising of marijuana being prohibited both outside and inside of busses.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07