
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
November 18, 2014**

Present

Members: President Allan Pollock, Vice President Julie Brown, Treasurer Doug Pilant (by phone), Cynda Bruce, Mary Jo Carpenter (by phone), Karen Friend (by phone), Ernest Palmer (by phone), Curtis Raines, Lisa Scherf (by phone), Kimberly Stanchfield, Elaine Wells, Julie Stephens,

Guests: Stephan Lashbrook (SMART), Edward McGlone (LTD), Cassandra Mance and Robin Bjurstrom (ODOT).

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by President Allan Pollock.

Agenda

Motion by Wells, seconded by Brown, to approve the agenda as distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Executive Session Regarding Compensation for Western Advocates and Tonkon Torp

The Board went into executive session 10:02 for the purpose of discussing compensation for Western Advocates and Tonkon Torp.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 10:15.

Motion by Palmer, seconded by Wells, to increase Western Advocates and Tonkon Torp compensation by 3% retroactive to July 1st. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Stephens, seconded by Palmer, to approve the September 9, 2014, Board meeting minutes as distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pilant summarized the financial statements — no questions or comments from the Board. The board directed that invoices be sent to everyone who attended the board dinner in Seaside.

Legislative Report

Stephan Lashbrook, from City of Wilsonville, summarized the City's draft bill to change ORS Chapter 291 regarding payroll taxes paid by state agencies within transit districts; current statute does not include city transit providers.

Pollock asked for confirmation/clarification that the bill would only impact Wilsonville. Lashbrook confirmed that only Wilsonville would be impacted.

Brown asked if the bill would dilute any other funding going to districts currently. Lashbrook said that it would not.

Stephens said she is supportive and assumes that Canby will be too. Friend said she is also supportive. Pollock asked whether there's any requirement for the additional funds to go to public transportation. Lashbrook said in Wilsonville, there is. Scherf asked if the bill only applies to cities that have a payroll tax. Lashbrook said yes. Scherf said she is supportive. Lashbrook said the only state agency that will be affected is the Oregon Institute of Technology facilities located in Wilsonville.

Hagedorn summarized the November General Election results. The D's increased their numbers in the House by one, and in the Senate by two. Longtime transportation advocate Senator Bruce Starr was defeated by Chuck Riley. Also reported on OTF transportation seminar for legislators scheduled for January 15th.

December 8-10 Legislative Days — Emergency Board will be meeting and is expected to approve an additional \$1.3 million for senior and disabled transit. Not expecting to hear about committee assignments until late December or early January. The 2015 session kicks off for organizational days on January 12th.

The Governor's proposed budget is expected in the next 2-3 weeks.

Palmer asked about state funding support for rail service to Seattle – will it be either/or for rail or bus service. Hagedorn said he doesn't think it's an either/or situation – transit is in competition with a much broader array of interests wanting state funding.

McGlone said there isn't the same kind of organized coalition pushing for rail funding as there is for transit. There are well placed legislators who strongly support rail. Bjurstrom said that ODOT would never advocate for funding for rail over transit.

Hagedorn said that the Oregon Transportation Forum (OTF) met two weeks ago and adopted a set of proposals for legislation, including an increase in the gas tax, an increase in ConnectOregon, \$75 million for transit, and \$20 million for student bus passes.

Stephens said she and others were surprised to see student bus passes on the OTA legislative agenda handout at the OPTC. Deas and Pollock said their recollection of the discussion was that support of student bus passes was more for the LTD/Salem-Keizer model rather than the OEC/OPAL proposal. Deas said he thinks that the OTA position should be clarified – Stephens agrees.

The consensus of the Board was that the Legislative Committee should clarify OTA policy and redraft communication materials.

Palmer asked about the proposed gas tax increase – should transit have a voice on the committee working on weight/mile proposal? Hagedorn clarified that it's a vehicle/miles traveled proposal, and there is a pilot project currently under way. He said he will check

on whether there is a transit person on the Road User Fee Task Force.

Hagedorn reported on a meeting last week regarding the motor carrier deregulation legislative concept that also included Pilant and Gard. Pilant said that the original idea was just for transportation districts to be exempt. Now the approach is to also include cities, counties, districts, and ORS190 entities.

OTA contribution to OTA for transportation symposium – Deas said this is one of the best things OTA can do to educate legislators on transit issues.

Motion by Stephens, seconded by Deas, to support a \$2,500 OTA sponsorship for the OTF education symposium. Motion passed unanimously

Brokerages

Brown said that there wasn't much new to report on since the September Board meeting except that RVTD has thrown its hat in for the fee-for-service clients in the TriMet area. This will allow all the brokers to coordinate. January 1st date set for TriMet to get out is solid.

Executive Director's Report

Review of 2014 Conference Evaluation Survey – Consensus of the Board was that evaluation survey responses were very positive and that the conference had been one of the best. Ross said that one of the biggest questions in planning for future conferences was whether we have outgrown the Seaside facility—there were complaints about several of the meeting rooms that don't have adequate audiovisual capabilities and temperature control.

Suggestion to hold some sessions at neighboring hotels; also suggestion to have sessions on the local transit system regardless of which city hosts the conference. Stanchfield noted that the CTAA conference will be in Portland in 2016. Support was expressed for a Roadeo event in Eugene.

ODOT/PTD Report

Bjurstrom said that Gard apologizes for not being in attendance – he is in Olympia meeting with his Washington counterpart concerning the state safety oversight proposal.

Regarding the 5339 wrap-up, Stephens asked when notifications will be sent. Bjurstrom said soon and she will check when she returns to the office. Carpenter asked about distribution of additional STF funds – Bjurstrom said they are hoping within two weeks after E-Board approval. Bjurstrom said that ODOT is not taking any administrative fee from the funds.

Agency Updates

- Brown (Rogue Valley Transit District) – The RVTD property tax increase ballot measure went down, resulting in a 23% cut in service. They were hurt by property tax statements going out at the same time as the ballots and there was a new library district that increased everyone's total tax bill. Six to eight full-time employees will be

laid off. They will be doing an overhaul on the complete system. They are also taking on a new area outside of the district in Shady Cove.

- Stanchfield (EK Bus Sales) – EK Bus Sales has been sold to Creative Bus Sales, and she is not sure about her future role with the company. Chevrolet has announced that they are cutting 40% of orders due to being oversold. She urged board members to check with their vendors.
- Raines (Klamath Tribes) – Nothing to report.
- Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – Suggests having the Oregon Values Survey representatives at the next annual conference, and perhaps have them present at a future Board meeting
- Stephens (City of Sandy) – In the Region 1 ACT conversation, the task force met for the last time yesterday.
- Wells (Ride Connection) – Looking forward to working with RVTB (hoping RVTB gets the contract) on fee-for-service proposal. Dialysis project is having a big impact.
- Bruce (Lincoln County) – Nothing to report.
- Pilant (Tillamook County) – Approved a five-year contract with ATU, with first year salary increase of 1.75%, and subsequent years of 2%, and giving all employees \$1,000 up front to load up their HRA accounts.
- Carpenter (Baker County) – Received a contract for veterans transportation program and they are gearing up for that
- Scherf (City of Corvallis) – 4% growth in ridership last month. RTP is under way and Nelson Nygard is doing data collection
- Friend (COIC) – Started a collaborative group to talk about expansion of Bend service

Meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.