
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 13, 2016**

Present

Members: President Julie Brown (via phone), Vice President Lisa Scherf, Treasurer Doug Pilant, Cynda Bruce, Mary Jo Carpenter (via phone), Kim Curley (via phone), Aaron Deas, Karen Friend (via phone), Hal Gard, Jeanine Gordon (via phone), Andi Howell, Stephan Lashbrook, Ernest Palmer (via phone), Kimberly Stanchfield, Elaine Wells (via phone)

Guests: Karyn Criswell (ODOT); Edward McGlone and Therese Lang (LTD); Sean Tate and Al Densmore (JW & Associates); Tim D'Alessandro (RVTD) (via phone)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Vice President Lisa Scherf.

Agenda

Motion by Pilant, seconded by Lashbrook, to approve the December 13th meeting agenda. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Wells, seconded by Pilant, to approve the November 15th Board meeting minutes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized the financial report and noted that total dues revenue is 95% of the budgeted amount; explained that expenses for the Transit Enhancement Project are over budget due to anticipated expenses in the last fiscal year were less than budgeted and came in this fiscal year, and the Board had approved four additional providers to the project, which increased costs. Stanchfield requested that Ross send her the list of private members who had paid dues and those had not.

Legislative Update

Hagedorn reported:

- Election outcomes are now final and the House will have the same numbers (35 Democrats, 25 Republicans); the Senate will have one more Republican, Alan DeBoer, meaning that the Democrats will no longer have a supermajority in that chamber.
- Ballot measures passed dedicating lottery funds for veteran services and outdoor school, which will decrease available lottery revenues for other uses.
- The Oregon Transportation Commission will recommend that ConnectOregon be increased to \$100 million.

-
- The Governor's proposed budget is based on existing revenues and doesn't include any additional funding from a transportation package. Her introductory message did highlight transit as a priority.
 - There is a hearing this evening in the Joint Transportation Committee, with invited testimony from the Oregon Transportation Commission, Oregon Transportation Forum, AAA, Oregon Trucking Association, and others. Hagedorn will testify on behalf of OTA and present the BetterTransitOregon materials. The Joint Committee will ultimately develop a workplan for the session, probably meeting on a weekly basis.
 - The House is expected to announce committee assignments by the end of the month; it's more complicated on the Senate side with a vacancy that now exists due to Sen. Chris Edwards' resignation. Organizational days will January 9-11, at which time pre-session filed bills will be available for review. The Legislature will formally convene on February 1st.

Executive Director's Report

Ross said that his primary effort for the last month has been coordinating production of the BetterTransitOregon materials; folders are available today for Board members to take and links for downloading the one-page sheets have been emailed.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard reported:

- ODOT has been given a directive from the Department of Administrative Services to halt all nonessential travel, and they are looking at alternate ways to meet/communicate with constituents.
- At the last PTAC meeting the Public Transit Division was asked to review formula conditions—feedback from the committee was “all over the board” without any clear consensus. Gard will have a final decision by the end of the day.

Briefing from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on Volkswagen Diesel Settlement

Kevin Downing presented information on the partial consent decree regarding Volkswagen's violation of federal clean air standards—penalties will likely be as much as \$15 billion, with \$2.7 billion of that amount dedicated to a mitigation fund that will be divided among the states based on the number of registered VW diesel vehicles. Oregon will receive approximately \$68 million.

The court outlined a list of actions that the mitigation fund monies can be spent on, one of which is replacement of 2009 and older diesel buses or their engines.

DEQ will be the agency responsible for disbursement of funds, and will be issuing a straw man proposal in January for comment; they are very interested in input from public transportation providers to assist with preparation of the proposal.

Scherf asked if funding priority could be given to areas with the highest number of registered VW diesel vehicles; Downing said this would be a good criterion.

Brown suggested that DEQ consider allowing the funds to be used by agencies as match money for federal and state grants.

McGlone suggested allowing the funds to be used for pooled procurement programs.

Downing encouraged Board members to communicate other suggestions to him and indicated that he would be happy to come back for more discussion at future meetings.

Agency Updates

- Pilant (Tillamook Transportation District) – Reaching final stages of intercity transit enhancement plan, which will result in changes to service to Salem and Cannon Beach.
- Stanchfield (Creative Bus Sales) – Working on adding trolleys to the state contract; there is a new Ford Transit model out.
- Lashbrook (SMART/City of Wilsonville) – Their transit master plan will be out in draft form for public comment soon; looking at service cuts due to PERS oncreases; Stephan will be retiring as soon as his replacement can be found.
- Lang (LTD) – Only her second day on the job with LTD as Public Information Officer, looking forward to working with everyone.
- Howell (City of Sandy) – Changed their Estacada route in November and also changed times on the route, which has resulted in increased ridership. The Sandy city manager and community services director are both leaving.
- Deas (TriMet) – Had a contentious process for discussion of service to Mt. Hood Community College; the recent snow event shut down the entire MAX system; hiring operators as fast as they can, but still not filling all positions. Doing a lot of work on the Southwest Corridor project—City of Tigard ballot measure passed, allowing them to continue involvement in project; likely will seek legislative action regarding land use approvals.
- Curley (ToGo) – ToGo is working on information regarding multi-modal elements to share with legislators.
- Brown (Rogue Valley Transit) – Getting ready to do their 2040 master transit plan, which is a good opportunity for additional public input.
- Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – Momentum is building on their transit development plan and the coordinated plan is near completion; four new buses have been ordered; working with the community to get people to warming shelters.
- Friend (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council) – Nearing completion of refining routes and stops to increase service to commuters; continuing to work on their legislative concept re providers with ORS 190 agreements. Also struggling with having enough drivers, and approved a wage increase to provide better compensation. Karen has accepted an offer from the COIC Board to become the permanent director so will be recruiting for a transit manager.
- Gordon (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) – Having quite a bit of snow and forcing them to cancel bus routes due to safety concerns; working toward a new intracity route for Hermiston and updating their paratransit plan.

-
- Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – Finalized a three-year contract with their union; completed ConnectOregon grant to increase parts inventory; Assistant Manager Starla Davis is retiring after 20 years with BTS; Palmer will be retiring in September.
 - Wells (Ride Connection) - They have been challenged by the snow/ice event and are looking at processes to ensure they're able to respond more effectively in the future; CTAA membership drive is this month and calls will be going out. Ridership is up and they are in the process of buying 16 new vehicles
 - Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Also dealing with challenging winter conditions; had transition to new trolley route; their fixed route is up 100% from last year.
 - Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Had a public open house last week that was very well attended; consultants are now synthesizing the comments. Discovered that there had been an error in collection of the city's street maintenance fee over several years and will now have to pay refunds; working to interact more closely with Amtrak stop in Albany.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.