
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 9, 2014**

Present

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

Guests: Stephan Lashbrook (SMART), Edward McGlone (LTD), 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.

Board Member Resignation

Curtis Raines reported that he had accepted a new job that is not transit related and would, therefore, regretfully need to resign from the Board. The Board thanked Raines for his service on the Board and wished him the best in his new position. Ross was directed to send notice to the OTA membership about the opening and solicit letters of interest to be appointed.

Agenda

Motion by Pilant, seconded by Stanchfield, to approve the agenda as distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Stephens, seconded by Bruce, to approve the November 18, 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. Ross distributed a list of private members who had not yet renewed and asked for any assistance that the Board might be able to provide in getting them to continue their OTA memberships.

Brokerages

Brown reported that there still hasn't been a decision in the tricounty fee-for-services selection; the delay leads her to believe they may be going with the existing contractor. Brown said the decision needs to be made as soon as possible since there are only three weeks left until the existing contract expires.

ODOT/PTD Report

Bjurstrom said that Gard apologizes for again not being able to attend. Not a lot going on

right now—working on legislative concepts and need a new Region 5 Coordinator; getting IGAs out to grant recipients.

Hagedorn asked about the carrier deregulation bill draft—everyone wants to make sure that the Motor Carrier Division is OK with the revised language. Bjurstrom will check with Dina VanDerHyde and report back to him.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn distributed the Ways & Means Subcommittee budget document explaining special appropriations for DHS, OHA, and ODOT—the \$1.68 million recommended additional senior and disabled transportation appropriation will go to the full Emergency Board tomorrow and is expected to be approved.

The Governor’s proposed budget contains \$? For senior and disabled transportation; another highlight of his draft budget was \$68 million for ConnectOregon, though transportation advocates will be pushing for more.

Hagedorn reviewed the legislative process in January and February.

OTA Position on Student Bus Passes. Hagedorn distributed a revised version of the OTA Legislative Agenda, reflecting removal of the student bus passes issue as approved by the Legislative Committee.

OTA Position on City of Wilsonville bill draft re changes to ORS Chapter 291.405-407 (Mass Transit Assistance Account). 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.

Friend said COIC would be interested in having ORS 190 entities included. Wright asked whether cities could apply to get funds and transfer them to an agency such as hers that is providing transit services—Lashbrook said he didn’t think so, the cities would have to be the transit provider. Stephens asked whether this would only apply to those jurisdictions with payroll taxes—Pollock said it would also apply to those receiving property taxes.

Motion by Stephens, seconded by Wells for OTA to support the City of Wilsonville bill.
Motion passed unanimously.

University Governance Boards. McGlone explained that the Legislature in 2013 granted special status to all state universities to be exempt from state in lieu of taxes, resulting in a significant loss of revenue for LTD. LTD is now negotiating with the University of Oregon for a voluntary payment. Hagedorn and McGlone both believe that the chances of a legislative solution to the situation would be very low.

Stanchfield asked whether Uber impacts public transportation. Rolls said that ToGo is looking closely at the issue—they very much like the technology and the opportunities that

it provides, but are concerned about Uber not complying with existing rules and regulations. Stanchfield said taxi drivers in Portland asked if OTA could support the Portland City Council's position; Pollock said he didn't think that it is an appropriate issue for OTA.

Executive Director's Report

Draft Policy - Political Contributions from the Private Fund. Ross reviewed changes that had been made in the draft policy to broaden the types of tax increase campaigns that could be supported. It was also suggested that language should be added allowing contributions to campaigns for ballot measures that would have an impact on transit— Ross will work up a new revised version and send to the Board for review and consideration at the January Board meeting.

Website. Ross announced that there would a web meeting/conference call on December 10th at 10:00 to discuss design preferences for the updated website and encouraged any Board members who wanted to participate to let him know and he would send directions to do so.

Agency Updates

- Wright (Columbia County Rider) – Working with a citizen group on an initiative that would add \$.25 to property taxes for the Columbia County Rider.
- Stanchfield (EK Bus Sales) – EK Bus Sales has been acquired by Creative Bus Sales, and are now part of 17 subsidiary companies around the U.S.
- Rolls (ToGo) – ToGo had their annual meeting at the conference in October and new president is Scott Turnoy. Next meeting is February 26 in Eugene.
- Kilcoyne (Lane Transit District) – Ridership was down in October, partly due to Lane Community College enrollment being down 40%; ridership in the Gateway area is down as well, partly due to the mall being remodeled. The payroll tax issue has impacted their ten-year budget plan.
- Brown (Rogue Valley Transit District) - Report on ballot measure is coming. Getting ready for Tri-Annual review which has become more time intensive since the last review. March 2nd they're looking at reduction of service by 27-30%, they've already discussed it with the board. She will send Kelly a link to the scholarship for an upcoming conference and he can send it to all members.
- Wells (Ride Connection) - Got Medicare contract with six new employees starting last week. Staff will be given a breakfast Thursday from the Board as an appreciation for their extra hard work. Miles are down which leads to better ride efficiency and better grouping of rides.
- Pollock (Salem-Keizer Transit) - Ridership is up 5.4%, they are implementing a fare increase on passes only in January.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17am.