
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 10, 2017**

Present

Members: President Julie Brown (via phone), Vice President Lisa Scherf (via phone), Treasurer Doug Pilant, Mary Jo Carpenter (via phone), Kim Curley, Aaron Deas, Hal Gard, Andi Howell (via phone), Stephan Lashbrook (via phone), Ernest Palmer (via phone), Elaine Wells, Allan Pollock, A.J. Jackson,

Guests: Karyn Criswell (ODOT); Edward McGlone (LTD); Sean Tate (JW & Associates); Katy McDowell (Tonkon Torp)

Staff: Kelly Ross (Western Advocates)

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Vice President Lisa Scherf.

Minutes

Add Cynda Bruce to list of attendees for the December 13th meeting. Motion by Gard, seconded by Pollock, to approve the December 13th Board meeting minutes with change. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized the financial report. Scherf asked why the accounting and financial management expenses were so much higher than the budgeted amount. Ross said that the higher amount was included in the 2015-16 budget, but the invoice wasn't received until July, so was paid in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Legislative Update

McDowell reported that 1,500 bills were distributed yesterday and handed out the first tracking report. She said that Hagedorn will be meeting weekly with other transit advocates on Wednesdays.

Deas reported that Speaker Kotek has changed the committee structure for transportation bills—there will be a Transportation Policy Committee instead of Transportation and Economic Development, and in addition there will be the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation & Modernization. The Joint Committee will hold hearings on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

McGlone reported on a draft student bus pass proposal that would authorize school districts to provide wider bus service.

Deas reported on the Joint Committee on Transportation Preservation & Modernization hearing on December 13th where Drew testified. Many compliments were received from committee members regarding the Better Transit Oregon materials.

Carpenter asked for information on student bus pass proposal; Deas said he will ask Rep. McKeown's office, which is leading the effort on it.

Deas reported on bills being initiated by TriMet, including one dealing with operator assault penalties (HB2717); giving TriMet discretion for treatment of fare violations; a land use bill regarding SW Corridor expedited permitting/appeals process; and a request for \$150 million in lottery funds for SW Corridor.

McGlone reported on a bill regarding accessibility requirements for Uber and Lyft.

Curley reported on the “For Every Kid” campaign for passage of a bill regarding safe routes to school.

Deas said there should also be work on a bill regarding the in lieu of taxes problem that was raised at a previous Board meeting by Palmer.

Gard reported on HB2292, which would sync the state up with federal transportation safety requirements.

Executive Director’s Report

Ross requested volunteers for the OPTC Planning Committee and said he will be starting soon to promote the April 11th Transit Day at the Capital event.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard reported:

- Continue to work hard to get everyone as well informed as possible on transit matters; did extensive research on fare box recovery in response to a request from the Speaker’s office.
- He and Pollock have been asked to present a funding workshop at the January 19th OTC meeting.
- There is a new OTC Commissioner, Paula Brown from Ashland
- 2310 fund distribution process – will be stepping back and revisiting rules for small urban formula allocation.

Agency Updates

- Pollock (Salem-Keizer) – implemented new service last week to increase on-time performance; will be bringing a proposal to their board later this month to repackage other service; working on state agency bus pass.
- Deas (TriMet) – Have a new board member, Linda Simmons; working on new electronic fare program.
- Pilant (Tillamook Transportation District) – Many weather-related challenges; making good progress on new website for Northwest Connection.
- Jackson (Lane Transit District) – New board member, Kate Reed; did staff restructure that includes two AGMs and a new public information officer; West Eugene extension project is going well.
- Wells (Ride Connection) – Snow and ice issues, but their telephone system is computerized so employees can take calls even when they’re forced to stay home. Ridership up, especially on Hillsboro shuttle

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- Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – Mostly weather related issues; processing STF and 5310 applications.
 - Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Same as Palmer; worst winter in Baker City since 1947. Region V has a new RTC, Frank Thomas, who used to be at Community Connection
 - Curley (ToGo) – Promoting use of CET during winter weather conditions—it's a good to raise awareness
 - Howell (City of Sandy) – Swamped with STF and 5310 applications; have started looking at performance measures to determine what's working well and where they can improve. Very impressed with dedication of drivers
 - Lashbrook (SMART/City of Wilsonville) – Triennial paperwork was completed and is now under review in Philadelphia. Down to three finalists for his position; draft master plan now out for public comment.
 - Brown (Rogue Valley Transit) – Only missed one day of service due to snow; increased service out to Jacksonville; doing beta testing of e-Fare system and it is working great, no problems. Started master plan and will be kicking it off next week.
 - Scherf (City of Corvallis) – New city councilor who should be good; getting questions from city manager regarding fare recovery—suggested that OTA should work up talking points on this so that we are delivering a consistent message statewide. Carpenter volunteered to work up a first draft.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm.