
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 12, 2016**

Present

Members: President Allan Pollock, Vice President Julie Brown, Treasurer Doug Pilant (by phone), Cynda Bruce, Mary Jo Carpenter (by phone), Kim Curley (by phone), Aaron Deas, Karen Friend (by phone), Hal Gard, Jeanine Gordon (by phone), A.J. Jackson, Stephan Lashbrook, Ernie Palmer (by phone), Lisa Scherf, Kimberly Stanchfield, Elaine Wells

Guests: Cassandra Mance (ODOT), Edward McGlone (Lane Transit District), Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit)

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 Lashbrook, seconded by Curley, to approve the agenda. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Election of Officers

Julie Brown nominated by Hal Gard to be president; no other nominations. *Nomination approved unanimously.*

Lisa Scherf nominated by Allan Pollock to be vice president; no other nominations. *Nomination approved unanimously.*

Doug Pilant nominated by Aaron Deas to be treasurer; no other nominations. *Nomination approved unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Pollock, seconded by Pilant, to approve the December 8th Board meeting minutes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized the report through December 31st; no questions or comments from the Board.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn reported that he is getting prepared for the 2016 legislative session—the last round of interim committee meetings are occurring this week. Each committee can introduce three bills, each member two bills, and the Governor five bills. Won't be seeing member and Governor bills until January 25th—Hagedorn will be convening the Legislative Committee to discuss bills soon after that date.

Major issues that Hagedorn expects to be discussed during the session include a minimum wage increase, carbon policy, and possibly additional funding for transportation. One funding proposal being discussed is the employee payroll tax that was raised by the “Gang of Eight” during the 2015 session.

Brown asked Deas whether mass transit districts would still need additional funding if they received the employee payroll tax revenue. Deas said probably not, it would be a significant amount. McGlone said the same is true for Lane Transit District—the payroll tax would get LTD close to their goals. He believes, however, that this wouldn’t be the best approach for overall transit funding as there should be a general approach applicable to all transit providers rather than giving more options to a few agencies.

Deas said that the state should focus on assistance to areas of Oregon that can’t help themselves.

Lashbrook asked if the Courtney concept (i.e., employee payroll tax) would apply to the three small transit agencies that have currently have a payroll tax—consensus is that it would not, though Hagedorn said that this could be fixed.

Gard asked about the carbon discussion and whether this might generate revenue. Hagedorn said it is a definite possibility.

Hagedorn summarized the Oregon Transportation Forum structure and reiterated that they would be looking to OTA for leadership on transit funding.

Palmer asked for talking points from Hagedorn for use at the Governor’s Visioning meetings. Brown said she will work with Dinah VanDerHyde and Hal Gard to develop talking points.

Curley said that people need to keep in mind that biking and walking go together with transit and there should be mutual support of each other’s efforts.

Executive Director’s Report

- 2017 Conference Locations – Ross said that Cassie Mance from ODOT and are scheduled to visit the Pendleton Conference Center on February 1st and will have a report on the adequacy of the facility for the February Board meeting.
- Scheduling of February and March Board meetings – After discussion by the Board, there was general support for moving the February meeting to Monday, February 8th, at 10:00, and to leave the March meeting date and time unchanged.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard distributed copies of the ConnectOregon VI application summary; there were only six applications for transit. Will be following a similar process for discretionary money in May.

Additional Business

Mary Jo Carpenter brought up the Oregon Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, and said that grant

requests of less than \$35,000 don't qualify—this will have a significant impact on rural Oregon. Brown asked whether OTA wants to weigh in on the plan. Brown and Carpenter will work on a draft letter that will be considered at the February Board meeting.

Agency Updates

- Pilant (Tillamook Transportation District) – Board has adopted a new staffing plan and is now recruiting for an HR specialist; ridership down only 1% in December, but did set a record for number of dial-a-ride trips that were transported during the month. During recent flooding the district assisted in many evacuations, and in the process, developed good rapport with emergency management and news media. First draft of their transit development plan will be ready in February.
- Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Just finished an RFQ for a new style of low-floor vehicle—only one response received so far; working through new requirements of the Motor Carrier Act.
- Curley (ToGo) – Weather in Central Oregon has been very intense with snow and ice.
- Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – No report.
- Gordon (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) – Title VI plan was approved by their Board of Directors; use of full-time drivers is going well.
- Lashbrook (SMART/City of Wilsonville) – A vendor has been selected to expand their CNG fueling station; on schedule and budget for tech upgrades.
- Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Ridership is down significantly for the quarter; a City Council task force is working on a sustainable City budget.
- Wells (Ride Connection) – In the middle of a new strategic plan adaptive strategy; spent six months interviewing staff, volunteers, funders, and customers to get their input. This will provide the foundation for future work plans. Very excited about new asset management software.
- Jackson (Lane Transit District) – Looking at long and short term plans to turn around ridership decreases; also looking at finances to make sure LTD is on a sustainable course; also analyzing fare structure and its impacts on ridership.
- Deas (TriMet) – Having MAX troubles, ridership is up but reliability has gone down; also have more safety problems with more collisions than ever before. Working on two big capital projects, the Southwest Corridor Plan and the Powell-Division Corridor.
- Stanchfield (Creative Bus Sales) – Working on many bids that have been received.
- Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – Working on Transportation Management Plans, both for Lincoln County and with the Northwest Connector; ridership is down.
- Pollock (Salem-Keizer Transit) – Thanked the Board for all their work during his years as president; also thanked Western Advocates and Tonkon Torp for their assistance. Deas thanked Allan for his availability at any time he was needed in the capitol.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47.