
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 14, 2017**

Present

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

Guests: Karyn Criswell (ODOT); Edward McGlone (LTD via phone); Al Densmore (JW & Associates); Katy McDowell (Tonkon Torp)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by President Julie Brown.

Minutes

Motion by Scherf, seconded by Lashbrook, to approve the January 10th Board meeting minutes as distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Legislative Update

Hagedorn reported that the legislative session is off to a fast and furious start, and asked for feedback on the Wednesday morning meetings.

The Joint Transportation Committee is now meeting Monday and Wednesday evenings and has been divided into four work groups: Maintenance/Preservation/Seismic, Congestion, Intermodal, and Transit/Bike Ped/Safe Routes/Safety.

Friend asked whether it is a problem that all members of the transit work group are from urban areas. Hagedorn said, “No, membership is voluntary and self-appointed, and it reflects a greater interest in transit from within urban areas—it’s good that Co-Chair Beyer is on the transit work group.”

Hagedorn reported that he, Gard, Deas, and Brown made a presentation to the transit work group on February 13th, giving a broad overview of the state of transit in Oregon, challenges, and the BetterTransitOregon research. A statewide employee payroll tax dedicated to transit was discussed, and there was clear direction from the work group on next steps—will be working with ODOT and the Legislative Fiscal Office to develop detailed data.

Gard said the consensus of the work group was to pursue a robust revenue source that would provide significant resources. Transit agencies will need to decide what kind of accountability measures would good as these will be important elements of a new funding package.

Brown said there is strong interest in assistance to low-income groups on fares.

Hagedorn said the goal in this session is to get a transit funding source in place within an omnibus transportation bill.

Friend asked whether “clean fuels” is likely to also be a part of the package—Drew said it would.

Brown said that OTA will need to work hard to educate Eastern Oregon and coastal legislators.

Lashbrook asked whether anyone is brokering a fix on clean fuels—Drew said that Rep. Bentz is working with Rep. Ken Helm.

Ross asked the Board to review the 2015 Transit Day at the Capitol schedule and provide feedback on anything that should be changed this year—no suggested changes from the Board.

Treasurer’s Report

Pilant summarized the financial report and said there was very little financial activity in January. No questions or comments from the Board.

Executive Director’s Report

Ross said he and his staff will be spending most of their time for the next two months working on the April 11th Transit Day at the Capitol event and arranging appointments with legislators.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard reported:

- He had been in front of the Transportation Committee twice in the opening week of the session and the agency provided individual division overviews to the committee.
- In March, he and Pollock will be doing a briefing to the Oregon Transportation Commission.

New Business

Low Income Fare Payment Programs – Brown said increased attention from legislators is being focused on fare assistance programs for low income riders, and asked Board members to send a written summary of low income fare programs that they have.

McGlone said that LTD earmarks \$150,000 of fares that are sold at half price to nonprofit agencies. Gordon said that Kayak has always been free. Scherf suggested that Brown send out a reminder email to the Board about getting the written summaries.

Agency Updates

- Pilant (Tillamook Transportation District) – Three board positions are open; took delivery of two intercity buses and have nearly completed the intercity plan; finished first draft of 2017-18 budget; expecting new vans in May and June.

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- Bruce (Lincoln County Transit) – Connector website is moving forward and will have interactive elements; making special effort to meet with city councils in the county; finishing up biennial grant process; taking delivery of four new buses.
 - Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Devastating winter, but now finally driving on bare pavement.
 - Curley (ToGo) – First OPTC Planning Committee meeting was last week—very excited about the possibilities at the Pendleton Conference Center.
 - Gordon (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) – Business as usual, running a new City of Hermiston route.
 - Howell (City of Sandy) – Transit has been made its own stand-alone agency at the city rather than a part of the Department of Public Services; received a new heavy duty bus that was badly needed; looking forward to getting their trolley shuttle bus.
 - Palmer (Basin Transit Service) – Business as usual.
 - McGlone (Lane Transit District) – Started last round of construction for the West Eugene EMX; first of five electric buses expected in March.
 - Lashbrook (SMART/City of Wilsonville) – Two weeks left until his retirement; successor is from Las Vegas, Dwight Breshear; introduced Nicole Hendrix and Eric Loomis who came with him to the meeting from SMART.
 - Friend (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council) – Ran on snow schedules 16 days in January; running into challenges regarding their bill; working on a real-time app; struggling with recruitment of drivers; looking forward to getting their first low-floor bus.
 - Wells (Ride Connection) – The region just completed the STF funding process—depressing to take a 9.1% cut; said Chambers of Commerce in Portland area are extremely supportive.
 - Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Expecting two new buses this spring that were purchased without any funding from FTA; working with OSU to coordinate late night service that both are providing; Lee Lazaro is working on a new bus service called the Amtrak Connector between Albany and Corvallis, which will be designed to coordinate with the Amtrak schedule.
 - Brown (Rogue Valley Transit) – Getting five new board members in May due to resignations and people not running for re-election; have been piloting an e-fare system since last May that is very inexpensive and based in the cloud—it is working very well and she would like to demonstrate it in March (Julie will send out a Doodle poll to schedule).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.