
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2018**

Present

Members: Vice President Lisa Scherf, Treasurer Karen Friend, Dwight Brashear, Cynda Bruce, Mary Jo Carpenter (phone), Kim Curley, Aaron Deas, Andi Howell (phone), A.J. Jackson, Allan Pollock, Kimberly Stanchfield, Mike Stinson, Elaine Wells

Guests: Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit, phone); Karyn Criswell (ODOT-RPT); J.D. Tovey (CTUIR)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Vice President Lisa Scherf.

Agenda

Motion by Wells, seconded by Pollock, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Motion by Pollock, seconded by Brashear, to approve the March 13th Board meeting minutes as distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Friend summarized the financial report and highlighted the following:

- Received payment from ODOT for conference registration scholarships, PTAC members, and ODOT staff for a total of \$45,500. Total conference revenues exceeded total expenses by \$4,981.
- Made first scheduled payment to the Bend Riverhouse of \$5,000 (Facility Deposit for Future Year line item).
- \$900 expense for Accounting & Financial Management was for preparation of OTA's nonprofit tax filing with the IRS.

Curley asked whether conference scholarships would be available for transportation options attendees in 2018. Ross said that scholarships are administered by ODOT and he hasn't heard about any eligibility changes but will check with Jaimie Baldwin and report back.

Ross summarized the draft 2018-19 budget and said that it had been prepared very conservatively, with no dues increases and only minor expense changes to reflect historical trends.

Pollock asked about the draft budget's numbers on conference revenues and expenses, which show a net loss when there has always been a net profit in the past. Ross said he

would re-examine the projections. Pollock also questioned transfers from the Private Fund; Ross said they only occur when necessary to balance the budget.

Ross recommended that the Board defer any action until after the April 23rd strategic planning session. Consensus of the Board was that action on the budget should be deferred.

Legislative Update

Hagedorn reported:

- The 2018 legislative session ended on March 3rd and was much more challenging than expected due to a proposal from Rep. McKeown to sweep 1% of STIF funding from ODOT to the Department of Education for student bus passes and student activity transportation. A good resolution was achieved in the final amendments with the funding remaining with ODOT and the OTC given discretion to provide funding for student bus passes when practicable; a school representative was also added to the list of stakeholders on local advisory committees.
- HB 1459, the technical fix legislation for 2017's HB 2017, was passed in the closing hours of the session and is on its way to the Governor's desk.

Deas summarized how HB 1459 removed language from HB 2017's provisions regarding periodic payments. Legislative Counsel had determined that the language was a remnant of previous amendments to the bill that had unintentionally been left in the bill, and it was now necessary to either remove the provision or make changes to the distribution formula.

Friend commented that this was an important section for some providers and it would have been nice to have received notice of the possible removal. Deas said that he had learned of the possible removal amendment just before it was presented to the Joint Committee and any delay of the bill would have jeopardized its passage.

Friend and Brashear reiterated their hope that all transit providers will be treated equally and speak with one voice.

Criswell clarified ODOT's role in removal of the language and said they didn't advocate for or against it.

Hagedorn said that in the future OTA will need a process in place for very fast decision making, and that this should be discussed during the strategic planning session.

Deas commended Hagedorn on his handling of the McKeown proposal. Hagedorn said that this experience should serve as an important alert that there will be other attempts in the future to transfer the STIF funds away from public transportation and that OTA will need to be responsive to demonstrate that the funds are being used effectively.

Carpenter asked what the term “practicable” means as it relates to student transportation funding. Hagedorn responded that it reflects the fact that student bus passes simply don’t work for many areas, especially those that don’t charge fares or don’t have fixed routes; the OTC will work on an administrative rule to clarify.

Discussion of HB2017 Rulemaking Key Elements

Criswell reported:

- Removal of the periodic payments language happened at the very last minute of the short session and there is still uncertainty about its fiscal impact. ODOT is working on detailed estimates, but still waiting for the Department of Revenue to give an estimate of administrative costs. The Legislative Revenue Office estimates from 2017 were grossly high, and hoping for updated estimates within the next few weeks.
- Updated fund implementation schedule was distributed.
- There are new OTC members so Gard will be giving a briefing on transit programs at the April meeting.

Executive Director Report

- Review of Draft Logo Re-Designs – Ross distributed four draft designs for a new OTA logo; the Board was not completely happy with any of them and offered comments on elements that they liked and suggestions for improvements. Ross will convey these to the graphic designer.
- Member Expirations – Ross distributed a list of members who had not renewed in 2016 or 2017, and suggested a mailing to offer a “15 months for the price of 12” within the next two weeks as a strategy to bringing them back.
- Conference Update – Ross reported that the Conference Planning Committee is recommending a theme of “Keep Oregon Moving.” After discussion, consensus of the Board was a preference for “Keeping Oregon Moving.”

Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.