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

Present

Members: President Julie Brown, Treasurer Doug Pilant Cynda Bruce, Mary Jo Carpenter (by phone), Aaron Deas (by phone), Karen Friend (by phone), Hal Gard, Jeanine Gordon (by phone), Andi Howell (by phone), Stephan Lashbrook (by phone), Kimberly Stanchfield, Elaine Wells

Guests: Cassie Mance (ODOT-PT), Julie Wehling (City of Canby – by phone)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by President Julie Brown.

Agenda

Motion by Pilant, seconded by Wells, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Motion by Bruce, seconded by Pilant, to approve the March 8th Board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized the report through March 31st, no questions or comments from the Board.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn reported that there is currently a lull at the capitol as legislators' focus turns to the Primary Election. The Governor's Visioning Committee is still working and Speaker Kotek reached out to him regarding interest in a multi-modal transportation package. Some members of the business community are beginning to coalesce and raise funds to start an outreach program re a transportation funding package.

Brown reported on a meeting at Tonkon Torp on March 10th regarding Legislative Subcommittee work that was attended by Hagedorn, Ross, Deas, and McGlone. The Funding Subcommittee chaired by Deas is charged with identifying other funding sources for transit. Deas said his Subcommittee met last week to brainstorm on possible funding sources which included:

- Employee payroll tax
- State match for federal funds
- Treating transit as a utility
- Uber/Lyft/taxi surcharge
- Transit SDC
- DMV recording fee
- Unclaimed bottle/can deposits
- Cap and Trade

Deas said he will be merging the OTA funding discussion with similar conversations occurring at the Oregon Transportation Forum, and report at the next OTA Board meeting.

Carpenter said she was in a recent ACT meeting where Rep. Cliff Bentz spoke, and he said that legislators will need to hear from their constituents that there is support for gas tax increases.

Ross summarized the proposal from Fregonese Associates on a “transit enhancement” research and communications project that he had solicited after the March 10th meeting at Tonkon Torp.

Gard said that the project is necessary and needed; he recommended that the scope of work be honed to also consider the importance of transit systems to the state as a whole, including impacts on jobs, aging in place, preserving rural communities, congestion mitigation, GHG reduction, connecting communities, etc. Also need a cross section of types of public transit in the research that is done—STF funded demand/response service is important as well as fixed route.

Hagedorn said that the project also needs to demonstrate that there is a state role in funding transit. Gard said that also need to address the importance of predictability of transit funding so that long-term planning can be done.

Pilant recommended expanding the performance measures. Pollock said that having someone else compile the data has benefits.

Deas said he has been thinking about this for quite a while and has talked with Parsons Brinkerhoff and CH2M Hill. He asked whether we should come up with our own scope of work that is tailored to a likely transportation package—we need a near-term 2017 piece, but also need longer term analysis that can be updated periodically.

Brown said she is concerned about the proposal’s fixed route focus, need to also get data on demand/respond service.

Motion by Gard, seconded by Pollock, to contract with Fregonese Associates for a scope of work to be refined and approved by the Board.

Under discussion of the motion, Deas said that it might be premature to execute a contract now and perhaps some time should be spent working on refining the scope of work.

Carpenter said that she would also like additional time.

A vote on the motion was called by President Brown.

Motion passed 6-4 (Carpenter, Deas, Howell, and Lashbrook voting nay)

Ross was directed to invite John Fregonese to the next Board meeting to discuss the proposal; Brown will talk to McGlone about his thoughts on the proposal as Communications Subcommittee Chair.

CTAA Roadeo

Lisa Nippolt from Q-Straint offered to put on a pre-Roadeo training for wheelchair securement since this is one of the biggest challenges of the competition.

Stanchfield said that there are currently only four drivers registered for the Roadeo.

Executive Director Report

Update on Planning for Oregon Event at CTAA Conference – Ross said that all arrangements have been finalized for an Oregon reception and dinner on May 24th at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, which is the conference headquarters hotel. He and Brown will be meeting on April 26th with ODOT staff to identify speakers for the dinner.

Stanchfield asked whether OTA would be having a booth at the conference trade show. Ross was directed to get cost information on a booth and to see if ToGo and ODOT might be interested in a cost sharing arrangement.

Update on Planning for OTA Regional Meetings – Ross reported that he had met with Gard, Cassie Mance, and Marcia Hoskins at ODOT on March 29th and had tentatively decided on five regional meetings, one in each ODOT region. Meetings will be 2-3 hours in length and provide a briefing to transit providers on current initiatives by OTA and ODOT. Regional legislators will be invited and hear about transit needs in their districts; will include a roundtable dialogue with legislators on needs and benefits.

The first regional meeting will be the afternoon of July 12th in Pendleton. Questions were raised about whether the July OTA Board meeting should be held at the same time— Brown said this would be discussed at the April 26th planning meeting with ODOT to see if a Board meeting would be feasible given the schedule for July 11-12.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard reported that RTCs are doing technical review of 94 applications for STF funds.

The Policy Advisory Committee for the Oregon Public Transportation Plan will be meeting on April 22nd, and Gard will share anything that comes out of the discussion.

There are a series of FAS grants that ODOT is pursuing.

Agency Updates

- Pollock (Salem-Keizer Transit) – They have reached tentative agreement on a four-year collective bargaining agreement with the union; union voted to approve and now going to the Salem-Keizer Board.
- Brown (Rogue Valley Transit District) – They are working on their property tax increase ballot measure; optimistic about passage since there are many additional people and organizations now supporting.
- Jackson (Lane Transit District) – Have an opening for a Director of Finance.
- Friend (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council) – Have a transportation planner position open.

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- Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Working on their operations plan and the process to make a route change.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.