
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
April 14, 2015**

Present

Members: President Allan Pollock, Vice President Julie Brown (by phone), Treasurer Doug Pilant (by phone), Cynda Bruce (by phone), Mary Jo Carpenter (by phone), Aaron Deas, Karen Friend (by phone), Jeanine Gordon (by phone), Ron Kilcoyne, Ernie Palmer (by phone), Lisa Scherf, Julie Stephens, Elaine Wells (by phone), Janet Wright (by phone), Kimberly Stanchfield, Roxanne Rolls,

Guests: Stephan Lashbrook (SMART); Dinah VanDerHyde and Cassie Mance (ODOT), Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit), Edward McGlone (LTD)

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 Pilant, seconded by Stephens, to approve the agenda as distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Stanchfield, seconded by Palmer, to approve the March 10, 2015 Board meeting minutes with one correction ("Strategem" corrected to "Strategen"). *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pilant summarized the most recent financial report.

2015-16 Draft Budget

Ross summarized the proposed budget and said that there were only a few notable differences from the current 2014-15 fiscal year budget, including:

- Increased membership dues revenue to reflect gains made in the current year.
- Increased Annual Conference revenues to reflect expected higher expenses and thus higher TAP grant.
- Increased Accounting & Financial Review expense for a financial review by an outside accounting firm.
- Decreased Government Affairs expense because there won't be a "Day at the Capitol" event in 2016 (short session of the Legislature).
- Increased Annual Conference expense for expected higher food and A/V costs at Eugene Hilton

Vanderhyde asked about whether there should be any additional funding for the website—Ross said that the revamp has been completed, but it might be good to budget some additional funds for further modifications.

Wells said she agreed with additional funding for the website and also suggested adding more to “Administration” to allow for an increase in the contract.

Pollock suggests having him and Pilant work with Ross to bring back recommended revisions to the proposed budget at the May Board meeting.

Brokerages

Brown said that Douglas and Coos Counties just decided to contract with RVTD’s brokerage; Friend said their area is moving forward with an October 15th implementation.

Friend said she heard that TriMet had handed off its software to First Transit—Brown said she had received a certified letter from TriMet saying that the state will now have the license for its software.

Executive Director’s Report

Review of Transit Day at the Capitol - Ross asked for feedback on how things went and what could have been done better. Consensus of the Board was that the event, especially Governor Brown’s visit and signing of the proclamation was a big success. Several Board members reported that office numbers for several legislators were incorrect on the handout, and suggested that there should have been more of the legislative priorities brochures. In response to comments that the capitol still needs improvements on accessibility, Ross said that he is planning to write a letter to the Legislative Administration Committee and also hopes to get support from the Capitol Club.

Update on Conference Planning – Ross reported that the Conference Planning Committee had met and has chosen a conference theme—“The Road Reimagined.” The graphic designer is now working on logo ideas and a “save the date” email will go out in May. Kilcoyne suggested including Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy somewhere in the conference schedule as well as Rep. John Lively. Deas said that the Legislator of the Year Award should go to Sen. Lee Beyer.

Mance said that Planning Committee members are looking for photos from prior years’ conferences to include in a slide show during the conference. Kilcoyne suggested looking for a high profile speaker who could also make a presentation at a community event. Stanchfield asked about providing lift training at the conference—Board members will make inquiries at their agencies to determine interest.

Legislative Report

Hagedorn reported that the legislative session is at the midway point and the target date for adjournment is late June. Today marks the deadline for bills to move out of their initial committee or, with a few exceptions, are considered dead. For OTA’s agenda, nearly all bills have moved and are doing well. HB 2464 (ConnectOregon) will be going to the Ways & Means Committee tomorrow.

There is still discussion going on about a transportation funding package and transit lobbyists are working hard for as much money as possible for ConnectOregon and senior/disabled.

Deas said that HB 3405, sponsored by Rep. Gorsek, would require involvement by Metro in appointments by the Governor to the TriMet Board—he doesn't believe that it will go anywhere.

Hagedorn said there are a number of bills dealing with workplace scheduling, union requirements, sick leave, etc. Stephens asked about SB 414 regarding contracting out of services. Hagedorn said that the League of Oregon Cities is leading opposition to the bill.

Kilcoyne said that the LTD bill regarding a pilot program for student bus passes has moved out of committee to the Ways & Means Committee with bipartisan support. Penn said that he will be meeting with the Ways & Means Co-Chairs on state employee bus passes and it will likely be a part of negotiations at the end of the session on final budgets.

ODOT/PTD Report

VanDerHyde said that there is a new Region 5 Regional Transit Coordinator, Laura Slater. There will be a meeting on April 15th with veterans representatives in an effort to get better coordination with all state agencies on veterans service programs. VanDerHyde said that Public Transit Rail has been very distracted by the legislative session and all the hearings/requests for information that have been going on.

Agency Updates

- Stanchfield (Creative Bus Sales) – Received a message from General Motors saying that they are not going to producing diesel engines for cutaways.
- Lashbrook (SMART) – Said this is a good time to look at CNG for small buses—SMART has had a very good experience with their CNG vehicles.
- Scherf (City of Corvallis) – RFP for operation/maintenance contract is out, and six potential proposers came to a pre-proposal conference.
- Kilcoyne (LTD) – Ridership is down even though fare revenue is up—they are working to ensure accuracy of the numbers. West Eugene EMX is under construction and they have reached agreement with the University of Oregon for them to pay the payroll tax, which will result in more revenue than under the previous in lieu fee. The LTD Board will be adopting a ten-year revenue plan on April 15th, which phased-in service increases.
- Brown (RVTD) – Service cuts resulted in a 23% decrease in ridership in the first week after implementation.
- Pilant (Tillamook County Transportation District) – Ridership has been flat over the last year, but up 16.8% in the last month. Ridership is up 102% on the Northwest Connection over last year; in final phases of new marketing plan.
- Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – Updating Coordinated Service Plan; still in labor negotiations; budget hearings begin in May.
- Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Ridership is up a bit and the veterans transportation project is growing quickly—hoping that funding for it continues.
- Friend (COIC) – Ridership is down, but they are also questioning the accuracy of their numbers.
- Palmer (BTS) – Ridership is down 5%; working on local issues and two board members are up for election.

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- Stephens (City of Sandy) – She will be retiring by the end of the year.
 - Pollock (Salem-Keizer Transit) – Will be implementing a pilot program in the hills of West Salem to shuttle riders to a fixed route stop.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.