Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
May 10, 2016

Present

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

Guests: Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit), Edward McGlone (Lane Transit District), John Fregonese and Alex Steinberger (Fregonese Associates)

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

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

Minutes

Motion by Pilant, seconded by Stanchfield, to approve the April 12th Board meeting minutes. *Motion passed unanimously*.

Presentation from Fregonese Associates on Transit Enhancement Project

John Fregonese summarized the qualifications and history of Fregonese Associates and made a presentation on the scope of work that they are proposing for the Transit Enhancement Project.

In response to Fregonese's statement that "OTA will be seeking $10 million in funding," Brown said that it will be much more than $10 million, probably as much as $80 million per biennium.

Gard said that the project needs to include very small agencies and a tribal transportation provider.

Brown said that each OTA member needs to produce a one-pager specific to their area and to schedule meetings with their legislators.

Fregonese said that the next step is to settle on the six agencies that should be studied. Scherf asked whether all agencies would be the same in terms of work; Fregonese responded that smaller agencies might actually be more work because the data is less available.

Gard said that the project needs to tell the broader story of why local transit is a state issue.

Deas said that we need to emphasize humanizing stories along with hard data; need to include TriMet and LTD to connect with a majority of legislators.

Pollock said that this will be a tool for OTA to present the need for a statewide funding solution that's sustainable and predictable—TriMet and LTD may have a completely separate solution.

Deas said that we have a very clear need for multiple paths to a solution.

McGlone said that we need to really push legislators that the state does have a responsibility to provide financial support to local areas.

Deas said that OTA needs to ask for a number that will have clear impact—need to give Fregonese Associates a number they can work with and plug into their calculations, a number that is aspirational without being astronomical.

Consensus of the Board is that the funding goal should be $80 million per biennium, and all transit providers should be kept in one package.

Fregonese said that it might be good to break all agencies into four or five categories in order to establish a simpler language.

Consensus of the Board is that TriMet, Lane Transit District, and CTUIR should be added to the project list of providers.

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized the financial reports as of April 30th; no questions or comments from the Board.

2016-17 Budget

Ross summarized the two budget scenarios presented—one that pays for the Transit Enhancement Project out of existing dues revenues and reserves, and one that pays for it with a 20% one-time dues assessment and a less amount from reserves. Ross also reported that the Executive Committee had discussed the budget and recommend the Board approve a one-time 20% dues assessment and establish a subcommittee to determine whether the dues increase should be permanent.

Bruce raised a question of whether the ToGo dues should be increased more since the organization has grown. Ross said this would be an appropriate matter for the subcommittee to study.

> Motion by Bruce, seconded by Scherf, to approve the 2016-17 budget with a 20% dues assessment.

Legislative Update

Hagedorn said that he had attended the Governor's briefing on the Transportation Visioning Committee report; the Governor, House Speaker, and Senate President all say that transportation funding will be a top priority in 2017. The newly appointed Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Preservation & Modernization will be the vehicle for developing a funding package, and they will be doing their own form of a road show.

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. Jarrett Walker has been confirmed as a keynote speaker at the dinner and registrations are near 100 currently.

Update on Planning for OTA Regional Meetings – Ross reported that he, Brown, and ODOT staff had worked up a tentative schedule for five regional meetings that would be in conjunction with meetings of the Oregon Transportation Commission. Hagedorn suggested that it might be better to change the schedule to be in conjunction with meetings of the new Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization—he will let Ross know as soon as the committee's schedule is released.

The first regional meeting will still be the afternoon of July 12th in Pendleton. Ross and Hagedorn will work on getting as many legislators as possible to attend.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard reported that ridership on passenger rail has increased during the last year, and that the increase in Oregon is greater than in Washington. On-time performance was at 89%.

$4.1 million in 5307 Capital Investment grants were approved, and $2.1 million for 5310 grants ($8.1 million had been requested).

The Oregon Transportation Commission approved ODOT's request to pursue a series of FAS grants.

Stanchfield thanked Lane Transit District for assisting a veteran friend of hers with dialysis needs.

There being to further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.