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**Oregon Transit Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 11, 2017**

***Present***

Members: President Julie Brown, Vice President Lisa Scherf, Dwight Brashear, Cynda Bruce (phone), Mary Jo Carpenter (phone), Kim Curley, Karen Friend, Jeanine Gordon (phone), Andi Howell, Ernest Palmer, Allan Pollock, Kimberly Stanchfield, Elaine Wells

Guests: Edward McGlone (Lane Transit District); Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit); Jeff Hazen (Sunset Empire Transportation District)

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

***Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by President Julie Brown.***

***Agenda***

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

***Minutes***

No corrections to the June 13<sup>th</sup> minutes, accepted as distributed.

***Treasurer's Report***

In the absence of Treasurer Pilant, Ross summarized the financial report and highlighted the fact that it was the last report of the 2016-17 fiscal year. Expenses for the fiscal year exceeded revenues by \$19,868.30, but such a deficit was actually anticipated in the Board's budgeting process last year, and a \$22,410 transfer from the Private Fund was included in the 2016-17 budget. The actual needed transfer will be \$2,541.70 less than budgeted.

Materials cost for Day at the Capitol was \$246 more than budgeted due to the high number of color copies needed for the Better Transit Oregon folders. Total expenses for Day at the Capitol were still under budget by just over \$1,000 (\$2,480.77 actual vs. \$3,500 budgeted).

Palmer asked about increasing dues to build the association's reserves back up. Brown said the Board should definitely have that conversation—OTA's members have a big responsibility with new funding and we need to assist them in showing that this was a wise action by the Legislature. Scherf suggested that the president should send a message to the membership providing information about the new funding.

Palmer noted that not all transit agencies are OTA members—the president's letter should be sent to everyone, not just members. Friend said that OTA should take credit and let everyone know how much work went into HB 2017. Brashear said that we need to paint a picture in very clear terms of how this is a beginning, not an end.

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Palmer said the transportation funding package dispels the belief that OTA exists only for the benefit of “the big three”—this is a golden opportunity to point out that OTA works for everyone.

McGlone said that it would be good to have a session at the conference on implementation of the funding package. Carpenter said she endorses the idea of getting a letter out to all providers and giving as much detail as possible on funding details.

### ***Legislative Update***

Hagedorn reported:

- Context of HB 2017 passage – largest tax increase in Oregon history.
- Lessons learned – Preparation was crucial; the work by Fregonese Associates brought credibility to transit more so than any other stakeholders
- Resources – Transit had the best ground team than anyone else in the capitol, and a very engaged and effective Board.
- Next steps – Oregon law gives 90 days after the Legislature adjourns sine die for anyone wishing to refer legislation to voters; the signature gathering process can't begin until the bill actually becomes law and the Governor has 30 days to sign it. He believes that all potential parties who have the resources to mount a referral are either supportive or neutral on the bill.
- Leadership from the Governor's office in the final days was very instrumental in the passage of HB 2017.

Palmer asked about SEIU and other unions that opposed the bill—will they work to refer? Hagedorn said he doesn't expect any efforts from the unions.

Hagedorn said there is ongoing discussion about whether the new car privilege tax is in or out of the Highway Trust Fund, and there is likely to be litigation to clarify the matter.

Hagedorn said that the hardest work lies ahead of us—the funding package must be implemented smoothly by transit. Suggested that there should be discussions with ODOT very quickly, perhaps at the next Board meeting, and need to keep legislators updated. Suggested sending thank-you letters out to the Joint Committee co-chairs, caucus leadership, and Governor's office.

Penn said the Legislature approved \$9.7 million for senior and disabled transit, a slight reduction from the \$10 approved in 2015. He cautioned that no one should assume that this will be approved next session.

Ross asked who should receive OTA's “Legislator of the Year” award. Hagedorn recommended the four co-chairs and co-vice chairs. Palmer suggested also presenting an award to Governor Brown.

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The Board gave a round of applause to Hagedorn for his successful efforts; McGlone thanked everyone on the Board for all their work. Brown thanked Ross for bringing in Fregonese Associates.

### ***Executive Director's Report***

Ross reported that his focus is now on the October conference and the award nomination process. The program is nearing finalization and registration should open in early August.

### ***ODOT/PTD Report***

In the absence of Gard, President Brown reported:

- Transit Division's hiring freeze has been lifted, but won't be bringing in any new employees until the referral period for HB 2017 has passed.
- The draft Oregon Transportation Plan is out and everyone is encouraged to review and submit comments.

### ***Agency Updates***

- Bruce (Lincoln County Transit) – Struggling with having multiple of on family medical leave; working with Emergency Management Services to deal with anticipated traffic congestion associated with the August 21<sup>st</sup> solar eclipse.
- Carpenter (Community Connection of Baker County) – Hiring new drivers; medical transport ridership continues to be high; waiting for grants to expand office space.
- Gordon (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) – Will be on a conference panel regarding how tribes can work with community partnerships.
- Curley (ToGo) – ToGo has been working on drive-less eclipse events; Safe Routes to School was funded in the transportation package at \$10 million per year.
- Stanchfield (Creative Bus Sales) – There is a national recall of the new Ford Transit vans so no new orders are shipping.
- Friend (COIC) – Launched a free downtown circulator shuttle for the summer—1,300 riders in the first two weeks of service; also started a partnership with Uber.
- Wells (Ride Connection) – Passed a very constrained budget in June and are proceeding very slowly on new hires; looking for new fiscal staff.
- McGlone (Lane Transit District) – Secured a \$5 million grant from lottery funding for installation of second lanes near the new Knight Science Center; signed contract with MTM to be the new paratransit provider; nominated for one of the Governor's Art Awards.
- Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Just had bus cameras installed in their entire fleet and had a problem with a driver blocking the camera on the first day; doing eclipse planning.
- Brashear (City of Wilsonville/SMART) – Now fully staffed; transit master plan fully adopted by the city council; at end of call for projects in the Regional Transportation Plan.
- Howell (City of Sandy) – Clackamas County has contracted with City of Sandy to take over some operations of the Mt. Hood Express; new trolley was delivered last Wednesday and was full to capacity during the Mountain Festival Days.
- Hazen (Sunset Empire Transportation District) – Took delivery of two transit vans; all open positions have been filled.

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- Pollock (Salem-Keizer Transit) – Board approved a contract with Stott for bus advertising; preparing for eclipse as if it's a major disaster; state employee bus pass program was not funded by the Legislature and will be ending soon.
  - Brown (Rogue Valley Transit) – Started later evening service on July 10<sup>th</sup> and increased service on Saturdays; probably will be doing an additional route in the near future; in middle of master plan with Kittelson & Associates as the consultant. Have five new board members and there is a big educational element to getting them up to speed and unified.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00