
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
August 16, 2016**

Present

Members: President Julie Brown, Vice President Lisa Scherf, Treasurer Doug Pilant, Cynda Bruce (via phone), Mary Jo Carpenter (via phone), Kim Curley, Aaron Deas, Karen Friend, Hal Gard, Jeanine Gordon, Andi Howell, Stephan Lashbrook (via phone), Ernie Palmer, Allan Pollock, Kimberly Stanchfield, Elaine Wells,

Guests: Edward McGlone (Lane Transit District), John Fregonese and Alex Steinberger (Fregonese Associates), Casandra Mance (ODOT), Amanda Hess (CTUIR), Karyn Criswell (ODOT, Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Julie Brown.

Agenda

Motion by Gard, seconded by Pilant to approve the August 16th meeting agenda. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes

Motion by Stanchfield, seconded by Friend to approve the June 14th Board meeting minutes as corrected. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Announcements from the Chair

Board will soon be receiving email with evaluations for Tonkon Torp and Western Advocates and asked that they be sent back ASAP.

Treasurer's Report

Pilant summarized the financial reports for June and July; no questions or comments from the Board.

Update from Fregonese Associates on Transit Enhancement Project

John Fregonese presented PowerPoint slides summarizing the team's work to date and said they are now working on the website, which they hope to have completed by the end of September.

Gard asked whether it will be possible to have a template/tutorial for applying performance standards and benefits to other systems. Fregonese said that it would be very easy to do so.

Brown recommended that one-pagers be developed for each agency showing the benefits provided.

Pollock suggested allowing any agency to see what the financial impact of increased state funding will be.

Palmer strongly recommended including information for very rural systems.

Friend suggested that the maps would be easier to understand if service areas were shown in gray on maps (on the website).

Hagedorn said he thinks the Fregonese work is marvelous, and will be the first time OTA has had this kind of tool to show legislators return on investment. This is very good timing as he is just starting to have briefings with key legislative players.

Deas said that we need to make sure we're very careful about representations of service enhancements. Gard said that also need to be clear that benefits are based on dedicated and reliable funding.

Friend recommended presenting tangible information on potential benefits, but also saying that they are conceptual and dependent on local public involvement processes.

Hagedorn suggested that is time for McGlone's subcommittee on communications to interact with the Fregonese team and coordinate on what we want on the back end of the website.

Legislative Update

Hagedorn reported that August is a very slow month for legislators and the Governor, but that there are a variety of work groups now under way. The next legislative Days will be September 23-24. He will be briefing Karmen Fore on August 24th, and later with the offices of the House Speaker and Senate President.

Hagedorn reported there are many conversations going on regarding use of Volkswagen diesel settlement funds (\$68 million) coming to Oregon. Sen. Dembrow's diesel work group asked McGlone to provide information regarding electric buses and the challenges agencies face for implementation.

McGlone reported on the Eugene meeting of the Joint Interim Committee on Transportation Preservation and Modernization. LTD was asked to highlight each piece of their multi-modal system; main challenge was timing of speakers at specific geographic points. Edward recommends taking care to have talking points line up with areas that are being discussed at future tours.

Friend said she is having a problem with getting clear direction for their tour coming up on August 18th.

Brown expressed concern about the group of transit advocates that will be testifying in Medford.

Deas said he will be meeting with Karmen Fore next week regarding possible funding options for transit. Gard suggests having information on accountability for any increased funding.

Palmer raised the issue of “in lieu of” payments from the state being reduced by 10% without any explanation yet from the Department of Revenue. He wonders whether the formula was changed when State Universities became autonomous and no longer state employees, and asked Gard to use influence to get answer from DOR

Pollock asked If we don't figure out how to generate new revenue, who will? Does OTA want to recommend employee payroll tax? Income tax surcharge?

Deas raised question of whether we should put a bunch of ideas for dedicated funding on the table and push for them all, or a more limited number?

McGlone said that the burden is on us to decide what the best solution is for transit.

Hagedorn said that the income tax surcharge has to be one of the proposals – many factors make it attractive.

Brown said that the missing parts of the Fregonese study is what TriMet and LTD want for funding, is it \$80 million? She believes that the total amount should have a connection to what was recommended by Governor's Visioning Panel.

Palmer asked that this discussion be continued at the next meeting and be at the top of the agenda.

Brown said that we need to get the Legislative Committee reactivated

Executive Director Report

2017 Oregon Public Transportation Conference – Ross announced that the planning committee will be convening soon and asked for volunteers from the Board and/or their staff.

Ross asked what needs to be done to help Lincoln County prepare for September 15th Joint Interim Committee hearing in Newport. Hagedorn said that he would contact Cynda Bruce to discuss.

ODOT/PTD Report

Gard discussed the FTA transit asset management final rule and handed out information sheet; he said that Karyn Criswell will be the Division's single point of contact for all legislative matters. Criswell reported on Columbia Gorge Express service.

Agency Updates

Carpenter thanked ODOT for the grant to continue service to veterans.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.