

**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2014**

Present

Members: President Allan Pollock, Vice President Julie Brown, Treasurer Doug Pilant, Mary Jo Carpenter, Aaron Deas, Karen Friend, Ron Kilcoyne, Roxanne Rolls, Curtis Raines, Lisa Scherf, Kimberly Stanchfield, Julie Stephens, Ernie Palmer, Janet Wright (via phone)

Guests: Edward McGlone (LTD), Dinah VanDerHyde (ODOT-PTD), Stephan Lashbrook (City of Wilsonville), Steve Shropshire (Counsel to Tillamook Transportation District), Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit), Lydia Corran (Ride Connection), Chris Hagerbaumer (Oregon Environmental Council), Jonathan Ostar (OPAL)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by President Allan Pollock.

Approval of Agenda

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

Minutes

Motion by Stanchfield, seconded by Stephens, to approve the July 5, 2014, Board meeting minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report

Pilant summarized the financial report and highlighted the high percentage of dues received. No questions or comments from the Board.

Legislative Report

Presentation from OPAL and OEC - Jonathan Ostar (OPAL), and Chris Hagerbaumer (Oregon Environmental Council) made a presentation on a proposal for legislation to provide \$20 million for Youth Transit Access to Education & Opportunity.

Pollock asked whether school districts have been consulted. Ostar said there has been strong support from the Portland Public School District, but that they haven't yet reached out beyond PPS.

Scherf raised a concern about whether the approach complies with FTA requirements that public transit not compete with yellow bus service. Ostar said PPS and Eugene school districts have received waivers from the FTA and he hopes other districts will follow suit.

Kilcoyne asked how they will deal with opposition from yellow bus providers. Ostar said the ATU is neutral in the Portland metro area. McGlone asked if intent is to replace yellow bus service. Ostar said that over long term, this might be the goal.

Kilcoyne said his previous experience with providing student transportation by a transit agency presented vehicle efficiency use issues due to the large number of vehicles required during commute hours that then were parked for most of the day.

Stephens raised concerns from non-urban providers who are seeking significant state funding for overall operations. Kilcoyne asked whether this is intended as a grant program that districts would apply for. Ostar said yes.

Carpenter asked for confirmation that the proposal is intended for urban areas and won't be feasible for rural school districts. Ostar said he has been looking at school district maps and service maps in rural areas and he thinks there are some opportunities for it working in rural areas.

Turner raised a concern about interaction between traditional riders and large numbers of high school age rider—there might also be an increased burden for additional safety measures.

Turner and Scherf asked whether the funding could be used for capital purchases such as additional vehicles. Ostar said original intent was not for vehicle purchases, and that Oregon already does pretty well in providing funding for that purpose.

Hagerbaumer suggested having a small group from OTA work with them to make the proposal more workable, and together push the state to step up its funding for transit.

Brown said that PTAC has been working on a vision for funding that would involve more leverage for increased federal funding, and she suggests getting OPAL and OEC involved in the discussions. VanDerHyde said it would be good to bring a variety of partnerships into the discussion, but wants to see close collaboration.

Pollock said no one around the OTA Board table is opposed to the principle, but would like to see the Legislative Committee keep working with OPAL and OEC to work out details and address potential problems.

Report from Drew Hagedorn. Hagedorn said there is an opportunity next week when the Emergency Board meets for an additional \$850,000 for Special Needs Transportation. He distributed draft communications piece that will be given to legislators—feeling optimistic about approval.

Hagedorn distributed a legislative draft agenda and summarized the key points, including funding, revenue, reform, brokerages, and other challenges and potential issues.

Pilant summarized the situation where a complaint had been filed about whether a mass transit district had authority to extend multi-jurisdictional service. He explained draft legislation to deregulate oversight of for-hire carriers, which would clarify the confusion between the authority of transportation districts and mass transit districts. Hagedorn suggests a meeting with Senator Johnson to refine the language and help lead advocacy for the bill.

Stephens asked if the bill would be comprehensive enough to also benefit cities and counties; Friend said it should also include councils of governments.

Hagedorn asked VanDerHyde whether ODOT would help convene a meeting to flesh out all of the issues associated with the problem and legislation. He also clarified that the legislative agenda does have the ORS 109.083 clarification requested by COIC as well as language regarding brokerages reflecting the discussion that Brown and Hagedorn had with the Governor's office.

Drew distributed a letter template to legislators thanking them for appropriations to the Special Transportation Fund and asked the board for feedback on suggested changes.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Friend, to accept the draft legislative agenda. Scherf expressed concern about student bus passes and why OTA would split this out as an element of transit funding rather than an overall funding effort. The motion was approved unanimously.

A message will to be sent to all OTA members by Ross, urging that they express appreciation to legislators for additional STF funding by October 15th. Stephens asked whether messages should be sent only to members, or to all providers. ODOT will provide the full STF distribution list to Ross so that non-members can also be sent a message. Carpenter suggests sending different messages to non-members and encourage them to join.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

- Ross will send messages to OTA members and non-members urging them to communicate appreciation to legislators for appropriating additional STF funds. The messages to non-members will summarize OTA's advocacy efforts that helped to achieve the higher level of funding, and urge them to become OTA members.

Brokerages – Brown reported that brokers and ODHA/DMAP met last week. TriMet will be completely out of the brokerage system as of October 1st, creating huge problems for other brokerages because their biggest partner has been lost, as well as huge software problems. Everyone is now considering alternate software approaches.

Executive Director's Report

Oregon Public Transportation Conference – Ross distributed the latest conference schedule and said that registrations were coming in very well. He said that, as had been explained at the July Board meeting, plans were for vehicles to be moved into the exhibitor area on Sunday, and attendees urged at the Monday morning opening session to schedule appointments throughout the day with vehicle vendors. Ross said that he had been contacted by one vehicle vendor who expressed concern about having to spend such a long time at the conference, but was told that special arrangements could be made to get their vehicle in on Monday or Tuesday if that was his preference.

Ross asked the Board their preference on a starting time for the Sunday Board dinner—consensus was that 6:00 would be best. Hagedorn will also be inviting legislators to the dinner.

Draft Policy - Political Contributions from the Private Fund – Ross reported that he was researching similar policies of other organizations and hoped to have a draft for the Board to consider at their November meeting.

Website – Ross said that, while a website upgrade had been approved in the 2014-15 budget, he was reluctant to initiate it prior to the October conference as he was worried about problems that might be caused to the registration system. He said that the upgrade would begin in November.

ODOT-PTD Report

VanDerHyde reported that:

- The Public Transit Division has several new employees, including Joel Manning (TripCheck and technical analysis) and David Schwartz (5311 program and oversight).
- A new solicitation is out for 5339 funding and 16 applications have been received.
- Submitted two applications to FTA for federal discretionary grants (\$2 million worth of requests).
- A New State Price Agreement is now in place—there will be a training session at the conference and throughout the state.
- Just announced another Ladders of Opportunity grant program,

Turner requested that the new staff contact list for PTD be sent out.

Agency Updates

Corran (Ride Connection) – Had a ride-along with Senator Bruce Starr—it was very beneficial.

Brown (Rogue Valley Transit District) – ATU matched OTA contribution to campaign.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m. and the Board went into an executive session to the Western Advocates and Tonkon Torp performance evaluations.