

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING/WORK SESSION

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Pursuant to notice given to The Register-Guard for publication on January 14, 2010, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held a work session with the Board of Directors of Salem Area Mass Transit District, followed by a regular Board meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, beginning at 5:30 p.m., in the LTD Board Room at 3500 East 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Mike Eyster, President, presiding  
Greg Evans, Vice President  
Dean Kortge, Secretary  
Ed Necker, Treasurer  
Gary Gillespie  
Doris Towery  
Mark Pangborn, General Manager  
Jeanne Schapper, Clerk of the Board  
Wade Hicks, Minutes Recorder

Absent: Michael Dubick

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Eyster called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Mr. Eyster welcomed the Board from the Salem Area Mass Transit District (SAMTD).

ROLL CALL: Mr. Eyster called the roll for the Lane Transit District Board. He then asked the SAMTD Board members and staff present to introduce themselves:

Shelley Hanson, SAMTD Board President  
Katie Tarter, SAMTD Board Vice-President  
Robert Krebs, SAMTD Board Secretary  
Ron Christopher, SAMTD Board Treasurer  
Joe Green, SAMTD Board Member  
Jerry Thompson, SAMTD Board Member  
Marcia Kelley, SAMTD Board Member  
Alan Pollock, SAMTD General Manager  
Linda Galeazzi, SAMTD Clerk of the Board  
Pat Mercier, SAMTD Director of Finance  
Tom Grant

WORK SESSION: Discussion with Salem Area Mass Transit District Board of Directors  
Board of Directors' Roles and Responsibilities: Mr. Eyster asked the SAMTD Board if they had any questions or items of interest concerning the tour of LTD facilities that the Salem representatives had taken earlier that day.

Ms. Hanson commented that she had heard several favorable comments from an LTD rider earlier that day regarding the level of service that LTD consistently provided. She further commented that the primary challenge for SAMTD was to build community awareness of their agency's strengths and that perhaps LTD faced many similar challenges.

LTD Assistant General Manager Stefano Viggiano, responding to a question from SAMTD Board Member Ron Christopher, noted that LTD's Springfield Station was approximately 3,500 square feet.

Ms. Tarter hoped that SAMTD might incorporate the ability to allow credit and debit card transactions in a manner similar to LTD. Director of Finance and Information Technology Diane Hellekson noted that the majority of fare machine transactions are made by debit card, and the District has found them to be very convenient for many LTD patrons.

Mr. Green was impressed that LTD riders were actually encouraged to bring their bicycles onto the EmX buses. Mr. Eyster added that the bicycle feature had been enormously successful and that LTD buses often did not have enough bike space to meet the demand.

Ms. Hanson noted that the SAMTD Board had several new members and was in a period of significant transition. She believed that LTD had a good community support system with regard to its strategic planning efforts, and she looked forward to further discussion of LTD strategies.

Mr. Pangborn briefly described the various elements of the LTD organizational chart and generally described how the basic organizational structure of LTD had developed over time. Director of Service Planning, Accessibility, and Marketing Andy Vobora provided additional comments on how the various LTD service departments interacted.

Ms. Tarter asked for further information regarding the role of the LTD Board in overall community engagement and outreach processes. Mr. Vobora briefly described how the Board's role in LTD's community engagement process often overlaps with that of LTD staff.

Mr. Evans commented that the Board was well supported by LTD staff with regard to its community engagement efforts.

Mr. Gillespie agreed, noting that in his brief tenure as an LTD Board member, he had been given ample opportunities to contribute to the community outreach process.

Ms. Hanson noted that the SAMTD Board also was interested in learning more about the various levels of interaction between LTD Board and staff members. Mr. Eyster

responded that both Board and staff members had worked diligently with the Eugene and Springfield City Councils in order to maximize LTD's public outreach efforts.

Mr. Pangborn noted that the LTD Board represented the policy making arm of the organization and, therefore, needed to be as educated as possible with respect to LTD's multitude of community engagement activities.

Mr. Necker referenced the most recent LTD service redesign efforts and noted that the LTD Board members had been extremely proactive with respect to their public outreach efforts.

Ms. Tarter noted that staff resources for SAMTD were more limited than those of LTD and expressed that SAMTD's Board members also had been very active in SAMTD's community engagement activities.

Mr. Eyster added that LTD Board members served on a number of different volunteer Boards and committees throughout the community.

Mr. Eyster noted that over the last several years, the public had been made much more aware of the significant role that public transit services and systems play in the community. Mr. Eyster briefly described how the LTD Board and staff, such as Mr. Vobora, typically used local media outlets in order to distribute information regarding LTD services and programs to the community. Mr. Vobora noted that LTD staff usually met with editorial staff from Eugene's Register-Guard newspaper and other media outlets approximately four times per year in order to keep them updated on LTD projects and services.

Mr. Eyster commented that LTD's continuing relationships with various state and federal agencies also has been very beneficial to LTD.

Mr. Pangborn expressed that when interacting with various governmental agencies, LTD Board members usually receive the most credibility; LTD staff members accompany Board members to provide supplemental information.

Responding to a request from Ms. Hanson, Mr. Pangborn briefly described elements of LTD's 20-year vision, noting that the plan included the Road Map, which was comprised of three components: 1) a long-term vision for public transit services; 2) a collection of strategic transit goals and objectives; 3) and a comprehensive budget process. He then described how the Road Map had historically been applied to LTD programs and services.

Ms. Hellekson added that LTD's 20-year plan contained a great deal of specificity in the first five years and that the first year typically became the template for the following year's budget.

Ms. Towery briefly described how LTD had worked with its community partners as well as various community leaders in order to develop its long-range plan.

Mr. Kortge noted that LTD's 20-year plan had helped to focus its long-term planning efforts, particularly with respect to fundamental elements such as reserve funding and LTD's fare policies.

Mr. Gillespie said that he was curious as to how the Salem community had reacted to SAMTD's recent service reductions and the resultant service redesign process. Ms. Hanson answered that the service redesign had represented the current SAMTD Board's first real effort to generate community participation, and this effort had led to several good conversations about how transit services might best be provided in the future.

Mr. Pollock provided detailed information regarding the recent SAMTD service reductions and noted that they had amounted to a 26 percent cut from 2006 service levels. He proceeded to describe various elements of the SAMTD service redesign process.

Ms. Kelley expressed her hope that the LTD Board and staff might be able to provide information regarding its administrative staff and budget with which to compare to that of SAMTD. Mr. Pangborn responded that LTD would be able to provide such information.

Mr. Pangborn pointed out that SAMTD was primarily funded by property taxes while LTD was primarily funded by payroll taxes.

Mr. Krebs said that it had been difficult to educate the Salem community about its transit systems since much of the television media outlets covering that area were actually based out of Portland.

Mr. Evans reported that LTD would be hosting the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Transit Board Members Seminar on July 17-20, 2010, and noted that a formal invitation to the event would be forthcoming. Mr. Evans added that LTD's affiliation with APTA had been very beneficial to the District and had helped to foster several positive relationships with various transit districts, community advisory groups, and government agencies.

Ms. Hanson offered SAMTD's assistance in some form in the planning and execution of the upcoming APTA seminar. Mr. Evans thanked her for the offer and said that he would follow up with SAMTD as plans came together.

Mr. Evans noted that the City of Eugene planned to host the Northwest Corridor Rail Summit at Lane Community College on March 9, 2010. He further noted that the conference was planned to focus on the implementation of high-speed rail systems between Eugene, Oregon, and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Ms. Hanson thanked the LTD Board and staff members for their hospitality and informational discussions.

Mr. Eyster thanked the Salem area representatives for their participation and input.

The SAMTD Board excused themselves from the meeting at 6:36 p.m.