
**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 11, 2018**

Present

Members: President Julie Brown, Dwight Brashear (phone), Cynda Bruce (phone), Mary Jo Carpenter, Kim Curley, Aaron Deas, Karen Friend, Andi Howell (phone), Aurora Jackson (phone), Susan Johnson (phone), Doug Pilant (phone), Allan Pollock, Lisa Scherf, Kimberly Stanchfield (phone), Mike Stinson, Julie Wilcke (phone)

Guests: Karyn Criswell (ODOT-RPT); Dale Penn (Salem-Keizer Transit-phone); Gary Oxley (Lane Transit District - phone)

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by President Julie Brown.

Announcements

Brown reported that she was elected to be the Northwest Region representative on the CTAA Board of Directors and has been appointed by Governor Brown to the Oregon Transportation Commission. In view of this, she will be stepping down as OTA President after the conference in Bend.

Agenda

Consensus approval of the agenda as distributed.

Minutes

Motion by Carpenter, seconded by Stinson, to approve the August 14th Board meeting minutes as distributed. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Friend summarized the financial report for the periods ending August 31st and highlighted the following:

- Dues payments received so far this fiscal year are significantly higher than at the same point last year.
- Expenses incurred during August were very routine.

No questions or comments from the Board.

Legislative Update

Hagedorn reported:

- Election season is heating up—policy makers are very focused on campaigns.

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- The race for governor will be very competitive—could be the best chance for a Republican to win since Chris Dudley in 2010.
 - He had a discussion with Sen. Beyer recently and asked whether the Joint Transportation Committee would handle all transportation legislation, or if there would still be separate committees in the House and Senate. Beyer said that this is yet to be determined by the House Speaker and Senate President.
 - Two major ballot measures regarding taxes, Measures 103 and 104.
 - In the Senate, the Republicans have several vulnerable seats and are likely to lose at least one. In the House, Republicans also have vulnerable seats but there are a variety of opportunities to pick up seats currently held by Democrats.

Scherf asked whether there will be impacts on transit if Knute Buehler is elected governor; Hagedorn responded, “Probably not on implementation of HB 2017, but possibly on climate policies.

Penn reported that Measure 103 is written in such a vague way that it may impact gas taxes that touch food distribution.

Carpenter asked whether the senior/disabled program will still be a high priority, or if it’s now settled. Hagedorn said that it’s definitely not settled and transit is vulnerable—AARP will be leading the effort to maintain the program. Penn noted that it is a constant challenge to hold legislators to an agreement brokered with a previous Legislature.

Deas observed that we need to be careful how we characterize what transit received from HB 2017—we’re doing a good job rolling it out as soon as possible and doing a lot of good things. Penn said that we need to stress that transit providers haven’t yet received any of the STIF funds yet and we need to protect it to make sure changes aren’t made hastily.

Ross asked about having information on 2019 legislative priorities at the upcoming conference. Consensus of the Board was that room should be made on the schedule for Hagedorn and Criswell to talk about implementation of HB 2017 and issues that may come up in 2019.

Discussion of HB2017 Rulemaking Key Elements

Criswell reported:

- The Department of Revenue has announced that it will charge \$5.76 million in administrative costs for collection of the payroll tax for fiscal year 2017-18; \$3 million in subsequent years. Hagedorn said that the Joint Ways & Means Committee may review these amounts.
- She went to PTAC yesterday with proposed language for evaluation criteria for grant solicitation and STIF Plan rejection when evaluating STIF plans.

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- The Rail & Public Transit Division is proceeding with filling new positions to assist with STIF implementation.

Executive Director Report

Transit Day at the Capitol – Ross reported that he has been notified by the Capitol Building Use Coordinator that Room 50 would no longer be available for use by outside groups during the 2019 session—this will create significant challenges for the OTA event since there are very few options for accommodating the size group that we’ve had in the past. The Board raised the possibility of not having an event in 2019 rather than risk the potential of a bad experience for attendees. Ross said he would continue researching possible options in consultation with the government affairs staff working in the capitol on transit issues.

Conference Update – Ross reported that registrations for the conference are coming in very comparable to what was seen in 2017. He asked for Board input on whether the Board dinner should be held on Sunday or Monday evening—consensus of the Board was that the preference would be for Sunday.

Changing Board Meeting Schedule – President Brown reported that PTAC will be changing its regular monthly meeting day to the first Monday of the month and asked the Board for input on changing the OTA Board meeting day to the first Tuesday so that people could combine their attendance at both and not have two separate trips to Salem. One possibility that was raised is to have the OTA Board meeting in the morning of the first Monday, followed in the afternoon by the PTAC meeting.

Brown said that the PTAC meeting date change won’t become effective until December and that this should be discussed again at the October Board meeting.

ODOT/PTD Report

Criswell reported:

- Administrator Hal Gard will be out of the office for three weeks starting September 18th.
- The Oregon Transportation Commission’s October meeting will be a workshop.

Agency Updates

- Pollock (Salem-Keizer Transit) – The APTA annual meeting is in two weeks—he will become Chair of the Small Operations Committee and, as such, will have a position on the APTA Executive Committee; new buses will be arriving in two weeks and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony with Congressman Schrader.
- Friend (Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council) – Just signed a new two-year agreement with the City of Bend; Karen’s final day will be January 31, 2019, and her replacement will start on January 1, 2019. Three counties have agreed to have COIC as the administrative entity for STIF.

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- Stinson (Basin Transit Service) – Have been working for the last six months on route changes—having an open house tomorrow for a presentation of the changes to the public; working on a new website and will also be introducing that at the open house.
 - Carpenter (Community Connection of NE Oregon) – A couple replacement buses will be arriving soon; an advertisement for Mary Jo’s replacement has been placed and they hope to have someone hired by October 1st.
 - Scherf (City of Corvallis) – Corvallis will be going for the May STIF funding deadline; City Council adopted the transportation development plan.
 - Deas (TriMet) – Rolled out biggest service percentage increase in TriMet history; draft STIF proposal will be finalized tomorrow; working on plans for the Southwest Corridor light rail project—a decision has been made on the route, there are still questions about funding.
 - Curley (ToGo) – Ride Bend free shuttle ran all summer and was very successful; Oregon Drive Less Challenge will run October 1-15.
 - Bruce (Lincoln County Transportation) – Getting information together for RLS & Associates site review; installing new bus stop signage; NW Connector still working on pedestrian access grant.
 - Johnson (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) – In process of completing drug and alcohol desk review.
 - Brashear (City of Wilsonville/SMART) – In Los Angeles for an electric bus conference; attending the 2020 Cities Conference in Portland next week; will be having their bus rodeo soon.
 - Brown (Rogue Valley Transportation District) – Finishing up master planning; many employees are changing jobs; hired four new drivers.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.