

**Oregon Transit Association
Board of Directors
February 13, 2006**

Present

Members: Mark Pangborn (President), Heather Ornelas (Vice President), Steve Dickey (Treasurer), Ed Bergeron, Peter Jacobsen, Matt Mumford, Ernie Palmer, Julie Stephens, Michael Ward, Elaine Wells, John Whittington.

Guests: Lorna Adkins, Kelly Brooks, Edna Campau, Aaron Deas, Debi Letney, Gary Ouderkirk, Rodney Rosenkranz, and Dinah Vanderhyde.

Staff: Roger Martin and Kelsey Wilson

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM.

Announcements from the Chair

The chair briefly went over his expectations and introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

Approved.

Approval of Minutes

There were no December minutes for approval. Staff stated that the minutes were on a computer that crashed and if they are recovered, they will be sent immediately.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Dickey briefly summarized the financial summary distributed. He noted that the income is at 93% for the year, while expenses are only at 64%. Steve also noted that interest income seemed low for the month and the question was being asked of the accountant, but that he thought it was because most of the money had been taken from a savings account and put in a 5 mo. CD and that interest would not show on a monthly basis.

Commercial Driver's License/ODOT-DMV

DMV provided a handout of their statutory interpretation of when a CDL license is required for drivers of mass transit and transportation districts. They also provided a decision chart to help determine when a CDL is required for operators of passenger vehicles. Elaine Wells said Jane Cease provided a letter to their transit district in 1992 stating they were exempt from CDL requirements and that DMV had refused to issue a similar letter today. Her question was whether the fact that their agency had a contract with a mass transit district and received funds from ODOT Public Transit required that all their drivers have a CDL. DMV said that statute states that the "vehicle" they use must be owned by, leased by or under contract to a transportation district before the CDL requirement applies. Elaine explained that their service providers' contracts are between Ride Connection and the service provider, not the transit agency. Since Elaine said her vehicles were not owned by, leased by or under contract to a transportation district, DMV felt that a CDL was not required.

Heather Ornelas, City of Bend, said that all their drivers operate vehicles that are 16 passengers or less, but DMV requires they test in a vehicle greater than 16 passengers and their district doesn't have any larger vehicles. DMV stated that it was a federal requirement that Class C CDL drivers must test in a vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers. DMV suggested the district "borrow" a larger vehicle from another district for the drive test.

Executive Director's Report/Roger Martin

- Legislature has been in session just over a month. The atmosphere is positive and the majority is very pleasant to work with.
- Connect Oregon 2 is a high priority in both chambers, the Governor's office and with ODOT. The goal is to have the bill on the House floor by March 5. Any projects you want CO2 money for, get them ready for construction, which is going to be a major factor in the decision making.
- Something is going to happen for roads. Roger doesn't know what it is, but something's moving. The advocates aren't quite as strong for this as CO2, and it will be hard to get agreement. The counties are in trouble and they are going to lose most of their road funds and the chances the feds are going to help are small. There is about a \$90 million hole in county road funding. There is a package to work this out at the local level.
- The unions have a lot of power and the ATU has come forward with a bill that prohibits employees of mass transit districts, transportation districts and municipal bus systems from striking or recognizing picket line of labor organization while performing official duties. (HB 2537)
- Cigarette tax is our top priority behind CO2. The bill will hopefully be heard on Monday, February 19. There will be a panel of about 6 people testifying, but we would like to fill the room with users to support the bill.
- Legislators have become involved with the brokerage audit issue. Roger spent the day corralling legislators to get them involved and go straight to the top to Dr. Goldberg at DHS.
- Olivia Clark is going back to Washington DC to meet with the congressional delegation. She would like to collect federal requests from OTA members, so she can suggest to Congressman DeFazio that he go to FTA and ask for them to distribute the money to ODOT and let ODOT distribute the money locally. Please have your 5309 requests for 2007 to OTA by Friday.

ODOT-PTD's Report/Michael Ward

- Michael provided a handout with current and long term activities of the Public Transit Division
 - Current Activities
 - Trip Check 2
 - Soft Launch – mid February 2007
 - Hard Launch – March 2007
 - OPTIS
 - Revised implementation – July 2007
 - Legislative Update

- Attend weekly legislative briefings with OTA
 - Budget hearings scheduled for April
- Discretionary Grants Program
 - 350 applications received
 - March 12 PTAC meeting to review
- 5311 Program
 - FY08 application now available
 - Applications due March 31, 2007
- PTD Staffing Issues
 - TDM position vacant
 - Transit Network Program manager returns (Matthew Barnes)
 - 07-09 POP requests a new position
 - Temporary staffing needs for OPTIS implementation?
- Long Term Activities
 - Fully Implement OPTIS
 - 3rd quarter 07
 - There are always “bumps” when implementing IT projects
 - Will need help from providers
 - “Re-engineer” Grant Management Process
 - Key Partner & stakeholder involvement
 - 4th quarter 07-08
 - Annual OTA conference
 - Work with OTA staff
 - Develop relationships
 - Get out and visit with providers
 - Re-invigorate PTAC
 - Improve Business Processes
 - Budget management
 - Policies & procedures

Meeting Location Discussion

There was discussion about where to hold the monthly OTA Board meeting. Staff reported that it had been working with Salem-Keizer Transit to determine if conference calling is an option. Salem-Keizer is looking into it, and staff will alert members when they receive an answer. It was suggested that the meeting location be moved to LTD. There wasn't much pushback to moving the meeting location, but it was requested that during session, the meetings be held in Salem. So until July, meetings will remain in Salem and the issue will surface again in June for a final decision. The day and time was also discussed. Staff will send out a survey and wait for replies to reevaluate if the second Tuesday of the month is the best day for the group.

Other Business

Board Vacancies

Staff alerted the board that there are two vacancies on the board. Both fall under the City/County category, but there is nothing in the bylaws that would stop the board from moving around categories to make room for potential candidates that don't fit in the vacant seats. Roger Martin pitched that John Helm would be a valuable member of the board. John serves as Chair of the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, he's a member of PTAC, and he's Chair of Columbia County STF/Transportation Advisory Committee, a member of CTAA, and a board member and on the executive committee of Community Action Team, Inc. A motion to move the City of Bend to the City/County category and nominate John Helm to an At Large position on the OTA Board was moved, seconded and approved unanimously. Staff and the president will put together a letter to Mr. Helm requesting his acceptance to serve on the board. It was decided that the other position would remain vacant for the time being.

Legislative Briefing

Roger discussed most of the issues in his executive director report. Staff alerted the board to legislation about the use of mobile devices while driving. Staff told the board that OTA would be testifying and asking for an exemption and if anyone had examples of the necessity of mobile communication devices on buses, please tell Roger before he testifies tomorrow.

Yield to Bus Law

Ernie distributed copies of the current law and the OAR that details what type of equipment meets the Oregon Yield To Bus law. Ernie pointed out that the law and requirements are over 10 years old and simply represent the technology of the time. Since that date new technology has been developed that is superior. Ernie then demonstrated the example of this new technology from Transpec Worldwide. Ernie asked that ODOT review the product and if possible begin the process to change the OAR to allow this new and superior product. Michael Ward promised to look into the process.

Oregon MPO Consortium/Lloyd Chapman – SKT Board Chair

Conclusion

OTA Meeting adjourned at 12:?? PM.