

Oregon Transit Association

May 13th 2008

Attendees: Mark Pangborn, Allan Pollock, Olivia Clark, Ernest Palmer, Matt Mumford, Cynda Bruce, Heather Ornelas, Julie Stephens, Mary Jo Carpenter, Michael Ward, Roger Martin, and Aaron Deas.

- I. Call to order
- II. Announcements from the Chair
- III. Approval of Agenda - Approved
- IV. Approval of the Minutes - Accepted
- V. Treasurer's Report – Elaine Wells
 - a. No report this month. Elaine will send out when complete
- VI. Executive Director's Report – Roger Martin
 - a. ConnectOregon2 – transit had high % approved, but low % of total: \$10M
 - b. Roger urges folks to hold senior events during election season
 - c. FTA survey – Everyone should have received
 - d. Legislative update
 - i. Like Cyreena Boston
 - ii. Campaigns are busy
 - e. Capitol building is under construction. Looking great. Working with prison industries. Ahead of schedule and under budget.
 - f. Lake Oswego streetcar is continuing with Roger, Dick Feeney, and Tom Markgraf working on project. Dunthorpe is major problem.
- VII. ODOT-PTD's Report – Michael Ward
 - a. At legislative forum in Southern Oregon with FTA's Rick Krochalis, Senator Bates, Rep Esquivel, Rep Richardson, and Senator Atkinson.
 - i. Supportive, but no commitment until after revenue forecast
 - ii. LTD did presentation on transit options.
 - iii. Commissioner Leman was present
 - iv. Surprise: Some legislators thought General Fund went to transit! No clue how transit is funded.
 - b. OTC - \$20M in lottery bonds for streetcars. Starting process.
 - c. PTAC – Price agreement for vehicles
 - d. JARC and New Freedom – Competitive process in the next six weeks.
- VIII. Elderly & Disabled Update
 - a. Budget Note Report. Are we going to have to have good \$ recommendations? Michael Ward says yes, that is part of what the report will include.
 - b. Ernie Palmer – Remember that E&D is 20-25% of ridership. Don't forget other 80%
 - i. MW: This is the goal of the big transportation package, including the PTD critical needs document (which will include E&D)
 - c. Olivia: We need to bring a few Republicans. D's are not at 36.
 - i. Need capitol and operation \$. OTA has always taken a strong stand on bus replacement.
 - ii. Operating – Nothing except E&D.
 - iii. Mark Pangborn – Other states provide operating funds, not Oregon. Need to emphasize both cap and ops! Fuel is killing transit agencies!
 - iv. Olivia – Gov's polling will show many transit advantages. New ideas:
 1. Open Highway Trust Fund –include transit

2. Lottery dedication to transit (in 2014) – doesn't have to go to voters.
 3. Sales tax on new cars.
 4. Flex more \$ from ODOT.
 5. increase gas tax, reg fees, etc and flex more for transit – only use for capitol.
- v. ODOT bus program needs to be put into law with #'s and goals.
 - vi. Ernie Palmer – need to be careful because roads need help too. Taking \$ away from roads doesn't necessarily help. Olivia agrees. Mark Pangborn – this will be a partnership.

IX. Connect Oregon2

- a. Rail getting 57%, Air 27%, Transit 10%.
- b. Will there be a CO3? Roger thinks we might be stretching the bond capacity.
- c. Salem project is 2 spots away from being funded. There are a few questionable project ahead of Salem and Roger wants to try to bump it up.
- d. Michael Ward – regional and modal priorities were key
- e. Olivia – if there is a CO3 then transit needs to be in it, regardless of the %.

X. Additional Business

- a. Regional ITS Conference 2009 – Next Summer. Good opportunity to recruit OTA members.
- b. Change name of conference to “Oregon Public Transportation Conference”
 - i. Olivia – workshop with TriMet mechanics to save fuel. Maybe have Tony Bryant? YES.

XI. Agency Updates

- a. Basin – ridership is up, which is a mixed bag. All growth from property tax increases was eaten by fuel costs.
- b. Tillamook – nearing capacity on several routes. Ridership up 25% this month, 15% for the year. Transit center on line in August.
- c. Mary Jo Carpenter – Ridership is up 25%. Gas prices are driving it for some folks. Competition with cabs – being worked out. Is this a topic for the OTA conference? Charter rules and cabs and transit working together.
- d. Lincoln Co – Ridership is up. Some new \$ for service.
- e. TriMet – New big fare increase. 5cents inflation, 15cents for fuel. January.
- f. Salem – Fare increase in July. 25cents. No ridership increase, most likely due to routes at capacity. Broke ground on maintenance facility.
- g. LTD – ridership is up 15%.

XII. Next Meeting will be Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 10:30 AM at Salem-Keizer Transit