



Salem Area Mass Transit District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIRTUAL MEETING

April 28, 2022

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Salem Area Mass Transit District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
April 28, 2022

PRESENT: Board: President Ian Davidson; Directors Chi Nguyen, Sara Duncan, Maria Hinojos Pressey, and Sadie Carney

ABSENT: Director Ramiro Navarro, Jr.

Staff: Allan Pollock, General Manager; David Trimble, Deputy General Manager; Denise LaRue, Chief Financial Officer; Christina Conner, Chief Human Resources Officer; Patricia Feeny, Director of Communication; Tom Dietz, Director of Operations; Steve Dickey, Director of Technology & Program Management; Ross Aguilar, Systems Administrator; Bobbi Kidd, Strategic Initiative Administrator; Linda Galeazzi, Executive Assistant; and Sara A.H. Sayles, SAMTD Legal Counsel

GUESTS: Lesley Hagewald, GIS Coordinator, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG); Kevin Young, Bill Holmstrom, Evan Marvel, and Cody Meyer from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

6:37 PM

- A. President Ian Davidson called the meeting to order and led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attendance was noted with a quorum of five members present. President Davidson announced the resignation of Director Charles Richards from Subdistrict #7 for health reasons. The Board will honor his willingness to serve the District at a later time.

GM Pollock spoke about spring cleaning and the things you can do safely when working with ladders, heavy boxes, and cleaning your garden tools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

- B. There were no announcements

PRESENTATION

- C. Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities

Presenter: Kevin Young, Bill Holmstrom, Evan Marvel, and Cody Meyer from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

Staff Report: PowerPoint presentation

Board members were apprised of the Land Conservation and Development Commission's (LCDC) work to update the transportation and housing planning rules, for the *Climate-*



Friendly and Equitable Communities rulemaking to reduce climate pollution in response to Governor Brown's executive order 20-04 issued on March 10, 2020. The climate reduction goals were significantly off track so the rulemaking efforts are focused on reduction targets in eight metro areas with populations over 50,000 people. They are reaching the end of the rulemaking in May 2022 with two main thrusts for regional plans and updated land use plans.

Cody Meyer explained that they will start with Eugene/Springfield and Salem/Keizer. It will involve implementation and monitoring every four years in a four to five year planning cycle.

Kevin Young explained about the time-lines and requirements for climate friendly areas, their options and standards, house rule amendments, housing needs, and UGB expansion that begins June 30, 2027.

Evan Marvel talked about parking management improvements and drafting rules according to best practices from cities around the state. Electric vehicle charging is pending review.

Bill Holmstrom spoke about the development of Transportation System plans that meet local needs and comply with state regulation and policy direction. There is a renewed focus on connecting sidewalks for the bicycle/pedestrian networks to the Salem/Keizer community public transportation network; prioritizing climate friendly areas and neighborhoods with underserved populations that are under invested; having access to key destinations, and identifying key corridors to work with land use.

The rulemaking schedule included a public hearing, March 31 to April 1, 2022. The adoption hearing is May 19-20, 2022 and the effective date will tentatively be June 22.

There was time for questions and answers throughout the presentation. For more information about the Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities Rulemaking, go to: <https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/LAR/Pages/CFEC.aspx>.

Board members expressed an interest in writing a letter of support to the LCDC for the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rule making prior to the LCDC taking action at their May 19 meeting. Director Carney stated that she would recuse herself because of her close relationship to the staff at DLCD, and would not vote.



Motion: Moved to authorize the General Manager to draft a letter of support for the Land Conservation and Development Commission’s Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) rulemaking.

Motion By: Director Maria Hinojos Pressey

Second: Director Sara Duncan

Vote: Motion passed: Davidson, Duncan, Hinojos Pressey, Nguyen (4)

Absent: Director Navarro Jr., VACANT (Director Richards) (2)

**Recused/
Abstain:** Director Carney (1)

PUBLIC COMMENT

D. There were no verbal or written comments submitted.

CONSENT CALENDAR

E. Shall the Board approve the Consent Calendar?

Presenter: President Davidson
 Staff Report: Pages 1-8 of the agenda

Approval of Minutes

a. March 24, 2022 Work Session

b. March 24, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

Motion: Moved to approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion By: Director Maria Hinojos Pressey

Second: Director Sadie Carney

Vote: Motion passed: Davidson, Duncan, Hinojos Pressey, Nguyen, Carney (5)

Absent: Director Navarro Jr., VACANT (Director Richards) (2)

ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

F. No items were deferred from the Consent Calendar

ACTION ITEMS

G.1 Select a Preferred Alternative for Redistricting Board Zones [or Subdistricts] to submit to the Secretary of State

Presenter: Allan Pollock, General Manager
 Lesley Hagewald, GIS Coordinator, MWVCOG

Staff Report: Pages 9-42 of the agenda

GM Pollock described the work of redistricting after the census has been completed to target the imbalance of the populations within the Board’s seven subdistricts to a goal of 5% or less. The MWVCOG prepared three alternative subdistrict maps for each subdistrict.



Each alternative map included race ethnic data analysis. District-wide, nonwhite Hispanic people comprised 38% of the population according to the 2020 census. The District held an Open House on February 8, 2022 and a work session on March 24, 2022 to receive public input on the alternatives for redistricting of the subdistricts. The maps were posted on social media and the District website for public comment.

Motion: **Moved to recommend Alternative 1 as the District's preferred alternative, and direct the General Manager to communicate that recommendation to the Secretary of State's Office.**

Motion By: **Director Sadie Carney**

Second: **Director Maria Hinojos Pressey**

Discussion:

Director Nguyen said that Subdistricts #1 and #7 had the least BIPOC and were the least diverse; Alternative #1 would affect those disparities the least.

President Davidson asked if the population of a given subdistrict was a concern because it was disproportionately white. Director Nguyen said this was her concern, in the spirit of why they redistrict. Director Nguyen wanted to center her vote based on the constituency in her subdistrict; one that would be impactful to getting and growing the voices that she feels are underrepresented. Alternative #3 would best serve her subdistrict. Alternative #3 offers the potential for growth in areas that are not landlocked. It has the ability to expand and she would really like for us to grow in BIPOC representation.

GM Pollock did not think that either of the alternatives would create a better or worse opportunity for BIPOC. Population growth happens a little more organically. Lesley Hegewald advised that in the last 20 years of looking at the census data, West and South Salem have been the fastest growing areas. Alternative 3 was designed with that in mind in order to get the population a little bit under the target population so that there will be an opportunity to absorb some of the growth that is expected in the next ten years. Those areas are expected to continue to grow more quickly than most of the rest of the area.

Director Duncan voiced concern about her Subdistrict #6 with 3.9% in Alternative #1 and a negative 3.5% in Alternative #3. There is considerable growth in her area into 2023. She is considering a no vote on the motion that was made for Alternative 1.

President Davidson was leery of the population growth projections given the briefing they just had on the climate friendly land management changes. In a similar vein to what Director Nguyen was describing but from another perspective, he supports Alternative 1.



There is a higher concentration of nonwhite and or Hispanic individuals in Subdistricts #4 and #5. He represents Subdistrict #5, and will not be in his position on the board into perpetuity. He sees it as succession planning, living in a subdistrict with a higher majority of a minority population at 53% where the likelihood of an individual of color serving in his subdistrict could perhaps more adequately represent his neighborhood. The board has historically seen the District as a whole and for that reason, he is not concerned about the population growth, but he does think in terms of the neighborhood associations.

Director Carney supports Alternative 1 because it minimizes the boundary change based on the kind of assignments and relationship that they have established over time.

Director Nguyen asked if there would be additional costs incurred by deviating from the very little impact of change that is offered by Alternative 1. GM Pollock said that administratively there would be no cost. The boundaries of each subdistrict will change no matter which alternative is chosen. After that, the boundaries of each subdistrict will be certified and reissued to the neighborhood associations within each subdistricts. It is similar to a board member change. Some of the neighborhood associations will still be the sole responsibility of one board member. Other neighborhood association boundaries may be within two subdistrict areas that is shared by two board members.

Lesley Hegewald added additional clarification that when looking at the percentages for the subdistricts in the categories, with the exception of Subdistrict 3, those percentages are not based on any projections at all.

President Davidson said there was a motion on the floor to adopt Alternative 1, so if there were no further questions or discussion, the board will vote.

Vote Yes: Motion passed: Davidson, Duncan, Hinojos Pressey, Carney (4)

Vote No: Director Nguyen (1)

Absent: Director Navarro Jr., VACANT (Director Richards) (2)

G.2 Adopt Resolution No. 2022-01 to Repeal the Bylaws Governing Procedures and Conduct of the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee.

Presenter: Steve Dickey, Director of Technology and Program Management

Staff Report: Pages 43-46 of the agenda

The District, as the designated Qualified Entity (QE) for Marion and Polk Counties, took action to adopt Resolution No. 2022-01 to repeal the existing Bylaws for the STF Advisory Committee (STFAC) adopted on July 23, 2020 by Resolution No. 2020-05 due to the



passing of Senate Bill 1601 in 2020 that resulted in changes made in the State Statutes and Administrative Rules directing ODOT to consolidate the STF and STIF programs.

Motion: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-01 to Repeal the Bylaws Governing Procedures and Conduct of the Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee and move the STF Programs and intended beneficiaries to the revised STIF Program.**

Motion By: **Director Sadie Carney**

Second: **Director Sara Duncan**

Vote: **Motion passed: Davidson, Duncan, Hinojos Pressey, Carney, Nguyen (5)**

Absent: **Director Navarro Jr., VACANT (Director Richards) (2)**

G.3 Adopt Resolution No. 2022-02 to amend the Bylaws Governing Procedures and Conduct of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee

Presenter: Steve Dickey, Director of Technology and Program Management

Staff Report: Pages 47-68 of the agenda

To complete the process to consolidate the STF and STIF Programs, all of the Qualified Entities (QE) designated by statute must dissolve their existing STF Advisory Committee, amend the bylaws for the STIFAC and the STIF program, and appoint a new STIFAC by Board action. Resolution No. 2022-02 will amend the STIFAC Bylaws that were adopted on July 23, 2020 by Resolution No. 2020-06.

Motion: **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 2022-02 to amend the Bylaws Governing Procedures and Conduct of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee.**

Motion By: **Director Maria Hinojos Pressey**

Second: **Director Sara Duncan**

Vote: **Motion passed: Davidson, Duncan, Hinojos Pressey, Nguyen, Carney (5)**

Absent: **Director Navarro Jr., VACANT (Director Richards) (2)**

INFORMATION ITEMS

H. May Service Change Briefing

Staff Report: Pages 69-70 in the agenda

Presenter: Chris French, Service Planning Manager

Chris French reported on service changes that will begin on Sunday, May 1, 2022 through Saturday, September 3, 2022. Regional weekday service will have two new weekday trips for Route 40X. These are part of the final phase of the *A Better Cherrriots* plan. Cherrriots Local will operate at the Sunday service level on Monday, May 30, Memorial Day and on Monday, July 4, Independence Day. There were no other service changes.



GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

- I. GM Pollock reminded the Board that the first Budget Committee meeting will be May 5, 2022. The proposed budget document will be out shortly. He said TransPro Consulting led a great discussion at the work session. The Board will have a chance to “deep dive” at the Board Retreat on Saturday, June 18.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

- J. Board members reported on their assignments for the Board.

Director Nguyen provided a written report on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee activities. [Herein referred to as Attachment A in the Minutes.]

Director Carney followed up on the *Our Salem* project. The Board delivered a letter of support to the Planning Commission and provided verbal testimony. On Tuesday, April 19, the Commission recommended approval of the *Our Salem* Plan with revisions to three housing policies for low income and public housing, and referred it to the Salem City Council. Carney reported on the April 26 SKATS Policy Committee meeting where they adopted the Unified Public Works Plan, and a TIP amendment to a project on Commercial Street from D Street to Union Street that will include bike lanes and signed bridges. There was also discussion on the potential to establish a citizen advisory committee for updates on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. It is on the agenda for their next meeting to consider. Director Carney missed the presentation on the survey results because she had another meeting to go to.

Director Hinojos Pressey followed up with comments about the survey results that Director Carney spoke of. She said there seemed to be a disproportionate lack of response from our low income minority communities in Salem and Keizer; not because of a lack of effort by staff. She heard that the website was very welcoming. Forty percent of the postcards were mailed out to low income, minority areas; and the postcards had a QR code that took you to a website. Currently, there is a large technology gap in our POC communities. Specifically, speaking from the Latinx community, many folks don't have access to smart phones, or don't know how to use a smart phone to navigate a QR code to a website.

Director Hinojos Pressey participated in the Citizens Advisory Committee meeting held virtually on April 19, and provided a written report [herein referred to as Attachment B



in the Minutes]. She announced that on May 1, "May Day," there will be a rally for workers' rights at the Capitol. There will be food boxes for families, tacos and live music.

President Davidson reported on the April 7 MWACT meeting where the OTC disclosed their determinations to distribute \$400 million of discretionary Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) funding. Transit received no funding despite it being in the name of one of the proposals. President Davidson feels that public transit needs to be invested in significantly more to meet the goals that our communities have identified. There is also a project at the interchange at Hwy 51 and Hwy 22 in the Marion, Polk and Yamhill County area that needs to be focused on. It is a dangerous area with fast speeds, impatient people and blind turning spot. It needs some kind of remediation. President Davidson attended the Salem Chamber Candidate Forum for mayoral candidates and city councilors to be decided in the primary election. He and District staff welcomed Senator Jeff Merkley to the Keizer Transit Center and had an opportunity to talk with him about the battery electric bus project. Senator Merkley and Congressman Schrader were instrumental in securing funding at the federal level for the District's 15 new battery electric buses. They also talked about the South Salem Mobility Hub that the District hopes to secure funding for to break ground. President Davidson attended the District's career fair along with Director Navarro. He gave kudos to the CHRO, Christina Conner and Patricia Feeny, the Director of Communication and their staff saying that the fair exceeded his expectations. He also gave an update from Salem's Climate Action Plan Task Force's recommendations to the City Council. A subcommittee of four councilors were named to choose from a menu of options to undertake as an actual plan to meet their goals of being a net zero community, and partnering with the District to quadruple the public transit ridership.

ADJOURN

K. The board meeting was adjourned.

8:43 pm

Respectfully Submitted



Ian Davidson, President



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Report:

- Keen Consultants held a conference call with staff on April 27. Action items from that call include:
 - - Keen to present final DEI strategic plan at the July 28th board meeting
 - DEI subcommittee to meet early July to review draft plan
 - Keen to submit draft plan prior to subcommittee meeting so subcommittee is prepared to provide feedback at meeting
 - Keen to submit final appendices on public safety & procurement for staff review by next week
 - Cherrriots staff to review all appendices and provide feedback by the end of next week

cc: Director Davidson
Director Hinojos Pressey
DEI Subcommittee Staff Support



Meeting highlights from the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting held virtually on April 19, 2022:

- Staff gave an update presentation on the South Salem Transit Center project with Parametrix. The project team spoke on the preliminary site selection and revisited the timeline.
- Customer Service staff gave the Mobility Report showing numbers of interactions, phone calls, sales, and overall workings with riders of the system.
- Staff gave the committee an update on the status of the Long Range Transit Plan. Staff will return to the CAC meeting after the next round of public outreach meetings.
- Staff gave an update on activities regarding COVID-19 as it relates to service, which included a discussion about the mask mandate and that masks are now optional on our vehicles and in our facilities.
- Staff gave a presentation on the status of the Battery Electric Bus Project including a discussion on inductive charging infrastructure at Keizer Transit Center. A video was shared to show what inductive charging looks like.
- The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on June 21, 2022 and the Executive Committee will continue to meet monthly.