



Salem Area Mass Transit District
Board of Directors
~ **VIRTUAL WORK SESSION** ~

Pursuant to Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-16 issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held electronically via Google Meet.

Thursday, January 28, 2021
GOOGLE MEET Meeting ID: meet.google.com/nfo-rihw-vut
Phone: (US) +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 359 451 873 4625#

MINUTES

PRESENT: President Ian Davidson; Directors Robert Krebs, Chi Nguyen, Colleen Busch, Sadie Board
Carney, Maria Hinojos Pressey, and Charles Richards

Staff Allan Pollock, General Manager; David Trimble, Deputy General Manager/COO; Al McCoy, Chief Financial Officer; Patricia Feeny, Director of Communication; Paula Dixon, Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations; Steve Dickey, Director of Technology & Program Management; Chris French, Service Planning Manager; and Linda Galeazzi, Executive Assistant

1. **CALL TO ORDER** **5:50 PM**
President Ian Davidson called the work session to order at 5:50 p.m. Mr. Pollock shared the *Safety Moment* reminding people to use the Three W's to reduce the effects of the COVID virus – wash your hands, wear your mask, and watch your distance. There were no announcements and a quorum was present.
2. **PRESENTATION** – None
3. **DISCUSSION**
 - A. **2020 Service Guidelines Document**

Staff report: Pages 1-116 of the agenda
Presenter: Chris French, Service Planning Manager, Operations Division
Mr. Trimble provided the Board with an overview of the Vehicle Acquisition Policy No. 106 and an explanation of the District's internal practices and strategies for vehicle acquisition.

President Davidson was gratified that the District was recently recognized as the cleanest public transit fleet in Oregon, and he wants to keep the momentum moving forward by taking a considered look at the Districts purchasing policies for procurement of vehicles.

Mr. Trimble explained that Operations staff meets throughout the year to discuss vehicle needs, and the needs for the service before writing up specifications for new buses in the procurement process, as there are many variables to consider. The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) scheduled timeline for vehicle replacements is generally 12 years. The District's maintenance team keeps its vehicles maintained for 15 years, and the FTA looks favorably on that. The District currently uses bio-diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG). Most recently, the District was awarded a federal grant from the Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program (LoNo) to add five zero emission electric buses to the fleet. Staff has also been investigating alternative fuels for the Cherriots LIFT and Regional fleets. With new technology, there is employee training requirements and the availability of parts and service to consider. The District factors that in to the procurement to provide those tools.

Director Carney arrived at the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

There was a time for questions and answers.

Mr. Thompson responded to questions about having two different fuel types. In an emergency, the District's large stock of diesel buses can run about two and a half weeks on its diesel supply. Generators have been replaced at the Del Webb operations facility in case there is a power outage, and the installation of a backup generator capital project has been approved. The District has the largest CNG station in the state. There are two stations that run independently of one another. If there ever is an event like the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, one or the other fuel type could be affected, but having both fuel types will help that.

Comments:

President Davidson said with the approval of the South Salem Transit Center project, they want to make sure to have good infrastructure for in-route charging stations and keep our options open for battery-powered vehicles. He has big concerns about a Cascadia-type of event. He has learned from the Covid experience all about taking appropriate risk while providing exceptional service.

Director Carney said she wants to "green" the fleet but doesn't want "perfect" to get in the way of "progress." We will not be able to predict the environmental outcomes but we are able to address the needs of the District. There is a balance they can strike.

Director Krebs said that he is a longtime supporter of electric vehicles.

Director Hinojos Pressey would love to go with electric buses; but had a fear of moving too soon, too fast.

Director Nguyen asked about the District's concern for keeping employees who may be considered obsolete with the electrification of its fleet. How will these people be impacted? Will they receive education?

Director Richards said he was happy with the purchase of the electric buses and there may be other technologies to think about.

Follow-up Action Item:

President Davidson advised that he wants buses that run well and requested that the Board receive regular updates on the electric buses while they are used on the road; and on new developments such as propane, electric or battery operated vehicles as they occur.

Mr. Pollock said that staff will do some research to see if there are DBE requirements for vehicle purchases.

Director Busch requested more information on the plans the District has for the use of battery-powered vehicles in her subdistrict. She asked how long do the batteries last and how long does it take for them to be fully charged. Mr. Thompson said that he **would** provide a report with a synopsis of the District's status on their progress.

B. Appointment Process for Members of the Board of Directors

Staff report: Verbal

Presenter: Allan Pollock, General Manager

Mr. Pollock announced that there will be three Board positions in Subdistricts 2 – 4 – 6 scheduled for appointment through the Governor's Office. People interested in becoming a candidate can get an application packet through the Governor's Office. The Governor's staff review the applications and make appointments with potential candidates.

Candidates go through the Senate confirmation process. The chosen candidate receives the Oath of Office and takes office on July 1, 2021 for a four-year term. This is in accordance with the Oregon Revised Statute 267.085-ORS 267.090 that became effective on January 1, 2019 with the passage of Senate Bill 1536 in 2018 for mass transit districts that were formed under ORS 267.107.

Follow-up Action Item:

For more information, go to: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/admin/Pages/Boards-and-Commissions.aspx>

4. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Staff report: Pages 5-8 of the agenda

Presenter: Allan Pollock, General Manager

The Board received an updated report of upcoming agenda items for Board review or action, and the Board's calendar of scheduled meetings and events.

5. WORK SESSION ADJOURNED

6:33 PM

Submitted by:

Linda Galeazzi, CMC

Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board