

ATTACHMENT A

**MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION
December 21, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.**

CAT minutes may be obtained in alternate formats by calling TriMet's Accessible Transportation Program Administrative Offices: (503) 962-8200/TTY 802-8058, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays

Attendees: Jan Campbell, Chair; Dr. T. Allen Bethel, John Betts, Jim Jackson, Diana Keever, Beth Nagy-Cochran, Arnold Panitch, Zoe Presson, Claudia Robertson, Terry Watson, Ed Wolf

Staff: Drew Blevins, Dan Caufield, Steve Kautz, Kathy Miller, Allen Morgan

Guests: Teresa Christopherson, Chris Walker

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MEETING

Jan Campbell, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes.

Beth Nagy-Cochran made a motion to approve the November 16, 2011 minutes with corrections as noted. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention (Claudia Robertson).

Claudia Robertson requested that future minutes include notations of when those who arrive late join the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

There were no announcements from the Chair.

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WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

Kathy Miller said one piece of written correspondence was included in the packet.

STAFF COMMENTS

Steve Kautz, Manager, Service Programs, reviewed a memo regarding the outcome of Boring's petition to withdraw from the TriMet service district. The Board approved the withdrawal on December 14 and it will take effect in January 2013.

A letter from Charlotte Lehan, Clackamas County Board Chair, was received in advance of Board briefing. The letter indicated that Clackamas County would support the withdrawal, with the understanding that the county and the community, with TriMet's assistance, would work to identify viable transit options for the transit dependent and those currently using LIFT service in the area.

TriMet will assist with the review and will also be sending a communication out to LIFT users, both persons who reside and/or travel in the area, regarding the decision and that there will be a process by the county to look at mobility alternatives for the area.

Steve said Line 84-Kelso/Boring now operates six trips a day out of the Gresham Transit Center but will no longer serve the area after the withdrawal. This is a low-ridership line and staff is reviewing the remaining portion of the line in southeast Gresham to determine how this change might impact its viability. It is expected that a decision would be made in the same time frame as the decision for other service, probably by April-May.

Teresa Christopherson, Clackamas County Social Services, said she would report back on any plans for future service at a later date.

Discussion

Arnold Panitch commented on the efforts that had been made by CAT members to support the continuance of Boring as part of the service

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district. He expressed his concern about the Board's decision to approve the withdrawal and his concerns for the people in the Boring area who would no longer have any service, including those who live within the district but travel out to the Boring area.

Steve commented that after January 2013, LIFT-eligible individuals who travel to Boring would be able to use LIFT to reach a point closest to a point of connection with whatever services are available to complete their trip.

Teresa commented on the current services available in the area. She noted that these services are already exhausting funding resources and that funding will be the substantial concern for the area.

Terry said that there might be an opportunity for a volunteer-type service for the area and he was sure Ride Connection would be addressing any options.

(Dr. Bethel joined the meeting.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Walker made the following comments:

- asked for follow-up on the LIFT reservations phone issues in November.
- reported that some of the heaters on the LIFT buses don't seem to be working appropriately and asked about the maintenance schedule for the heaters.
- thanked everyone for their work on the CAT and for the great transit service in the area.

Jan thanked Chris for his comments. She said that sometimes it is difficult to keep the LIFT buses warm because of the need to open and shut the doors continually. Staff will follow-up and report back.

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BUDGET CHALLENGES AND CHOICES – Drew Blevins, Director, Marketing

Drew Blevins, Director, Marketing, reported that on October 26, TriMet announced that it was facing a budget shortfall of between \$12 -17 million dollars for FY13. Drew provided an overview of the communication and outreach plan with regard to budget challenges and choices for FY13. The outreach process will include taking feedback from the general public, community organizations and stakeholders. The outreach will also include a series of open houses. A set of proposals will be presented to the Board in early February.

A recommended plan will be developed and the public will be asked for feedback at public hearings. The plan will be presented to the Board at its April and May meetings with regard to the outcomes that will affect September service.

Drew encouraged CAT members to complete and submit the form to provide their input. The form is also available for completion on trimet.org. To date, 1,850 responses have been received.

He commented that the form also provides the opportunity for responders to share demographic information about age, income, and ethnicity. The purpose of this information is to help staff to understand if the responses are representative of the community and whether there is a need for more targeted outreach in the future.

Discussion

Jan suggested that the TTY number be added to the brochure and also suggested that the demographic options include a question about whether or not a responder has a disability.

Arnold questioned why the list of options did not include any options to increase the payroll tax. Dan Caufield, Director, Operations, responded that the legislature has to grant the Board the authority to consider a raise in the payroll tax. The request for an increase is limited to providing new service and also conditioned by evidence of an improving economy.

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Arnold also asked if there would be an opportunity to ask supporters of the free rail zone to increase their contributions. Drew said that there have been conversations on this topic as part of the outreach efforts. He added that there are supporters for maintaining the free rail zone as well as those who are opposed, including those who live outside the downtown area and may not have the opportunity to benefit from the arrangement.

Terry Watson asked if staff would be publishing any information about the input received. Drew responded that the results would be reported and that would also be an opportunity for public comment on future proposals.

Beth asked about the costs of transit vehicles. Dan responded that a bus costs approximately \$450,000 and MAX car costs approximately \$3.5 million each. He added that the operating expenses are the continual costs that impact the budget.

Drew suggested that the CAT members submit their responses by January 15.

LIFT FARE PROPOSAL FOR APRIL FY12

Jan reported that the CAT Executive Committee (EC) has had extensive discussions about the LIFT fare proposal for implementation April 1, 2012. A history of LIFT fares was included in the CAT packet and Jan said that she had also had discussions with Claire Potter, Director, Financial Analysis, about fare comparisons.

After lengthy consideration, the EC concluded that they would recommend to the CAT that the committee support the LIFT fare proposal for implementation April 1, 2012, and ask that the Board maintain the Honored Citizen fare at \$1.00 until September 2014.

Terry commented that the EC members were in agreement in support of the proposal.

Claudia said that the proposal includes maintaining the monthly LIFT pass, a discounted 20-ride punch card and brings the LIFT fares in line with fixed route fare which was the intention of the initial LIFT fare policy that the CAT worked with staff to develop in 2004.

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She added that many services are being impacted by the current economic situation and she feels that the committee has to be realistic about considering the needs of all seniors and/or people with disabilities, including those who ride fixed route.

Jan added that the EC had recognized that many people who are seniors and/or have disabilities use fixed route and would be affected adversely if there was a continual need for additional fixed route service cuts to support the LIFT service.

Beth asked about the fare structure and the possible elimination of the two-zone fare. Dan said that there had been discussion as recent as this week about using a simpler fare system and how soon it could be in place. He said might be an option for consideration in the spring.

Dr. Bethel agreed that the Board has given some consideration to simplifying the fare structure and that it looks forward to additional information from staff.

Allen commented that the operators would also like a more stream-lined fare system.

Arnold questioned the logic of LIFT fare increases since the increases would never be substantial enough to meet the cost of the ride. Kathy responded that the ADA limits the paratransit fare to double the fixed route fare and agreed that the paratransit fares would never achieve parity with costs. The goal of the fare proposal is to increase fares to the same level as the fixed route fare.

Zoe Presson commented on the fare for Portland Streetcar and said that with the opening of the Streetcar on the East side, there will need to be reconsideration of the current fare structure. She said there is discussion underway about a fare of \$1.00 to ride the Streetcar anywhere.

Dan agreed that option was under consideration. He added that the fare would also allow customers to transfer between the Streetcar and TriMet services.

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Beth Nagy-Cochran made a recommendation that the CAT support the LIFT Fare Proposal as presented from the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and opened for discussion.

Jan clarified that the implementation date for the fare proposal would be April 1, 2012, and that there would be a second increase in 2013, and then additional increases until the LIFT fare matches the fixed route fare. The recommendation also included asking the Board to maintain the Honored Citizen fare at \$1.00 until September 2014.

Terry stated that the motion needs to reflect that the CAT would not be in favor of raising the LIFT fare if the Board chose to also increase the Honored Citizen fare.

It was agreed the motion was as stated below:

The CAT recommends to:

- **Increase the LIFT cash fare in 30-cent annual increments until it reaches the same level as the All-Zone cash fare.**
- **Once the LIFT cash fare and the All-Zone fare are the same, they would increase equally.**
- **The monthly LIFT pass would be maintained.**
- **The 20-ride punch card would include a 10 cent per ride trip discount.**
- **The Honored Citizen fare would remain at \$1.00 through 2014.**

The CAT emphasized that the committee would not be in favor of the LIFT proposal if the Honored Citizen fare were to be increased.

The motion passed with one abstention (Jim Jackson).

Arnold asked if there was a belief that by raising LIFT fares, some customers who could use fixed route would do so and ride using the Honored Citizen fare. Kathy responded that there would probably be some shift but that the majority of LIFT customers are unconditionally eligible for the service.

She added that there are some LIFT customers with conditional eligibility who could use fixed route at a lesser fare for some trips but continue to use

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the door-to-door service. At this time, it is left to the customer to enforce his or her conditions of travel on the LIFT service.

CAT MEMBER COMMENTS

Beth thanked TriMet for the opportunity to service on the CAT. She said that her participation on the committee has opened her eyes and mind about transportation and she feels more qualified to help people who have questions.

Zoe reported on a LIFT ride where the pick-up time she had been given differed from the times on the operator's manifest. She was concerned that she might have missed her ride. Kathy said she would forward her comments to LIFT Operations for follow-up.

Diana Keever asked if there would an opportunity in the near future to discuss LIFT cab service. Kathy said that Susan Florentino, Manager, LIFT Service Delivery, would be making a presentation at the January 18 meeting. Broadway Cab management staff would also be in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.