

Board of Directors – Remote Meeting
June 25, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Remote Meeting of Thursday, June 25, 2020 held at 4:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81904482001?pwd=ZmhnMzZwNUlLZnlTMmVHRld4dllvdz09>

Or call in at: +1 646 558 8656 Webinar ID: 819 0448 2001 Password: 584897

Board Members Present:

Belinda Ray – Board President
Paul Bradbury – Treasurer
John Thompson - Secretary
Jeff Levine
Bill Rixon
Mike Foley
Ed Suslovic
Jim Violette
Nat Tupper

Staff and Others Present:

Greg Jordan
Denise Beck
Ellen Sanborn
Joshua Crooker
Lauren Shaw
Ed Knutson

Board Members Absent:

Hope Cahan
Kim Cook
Ryan Leighton
Merrill Barter

Public:

None

1. With a quorum in place, the meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Belinda Ray, Board President.

2. Public comment:

No members of the public were present.

3. Meeting Minutes

Paul Bradbury moved, seconded by Ed Suslovic to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors as written. A roll call vote was called for by Belinda Ray, Board President. With approval by John Thompson, Jim Violette, Bill Rixon, Nat Tupper, Paul Bradbury, Ed Suslovic, Mike Foley, Jeff Levine, and Belinda Ray, **the motion passed unanimously by all those present.** The email John Thompson read into the record at the 5/28/2020 meeting will be attached to the minutes.

4. General Manager's Report

Greg Jordan reviewed the numerous precautions in place at Metro, and highlighted the changes that have more recently been incorporated, including:

- Rear-door boarding until fares have been reinstated
- Passenger load increased from 10 to 20. Another increase may be needed if school resumes. Seat restrictions lifted.
- Installation of protective shields for Bus Operator area
- On-site temperature and symptom checks for all staff.

May ridership showed a 75% decrease over the same time last year. In June, this figure dropped to 63%. Operator compliance with the policy of wearing masks is high, with a few medical exemptions.

Staffing report:

- No additional positive cases.
- Last month, 71% of Bus Operators were on active duty; this month it has increased to 88%. Maintenance staff on active duty has increased from 77% to 92%. There is now more than enough staff to maintain the current level of service (Saturday schedule) and the enhanced schedule expected to go into effect on July 5th.
- The enhanced service schedule (M-F) involves increasing hours and/or frequency of service on most routes. Also, Route 4 and the Husky Line will have an additional stop at the Rock Row development, with the Husky changing to its originally planned route along Larrabee Road. At a later time, the Route 4 Shaw's stop will be discontinued.
- Anticipate next ramp-up in service in late August or early September, depending on what action Portland schools and USM take.

Reinstatement of Fares: Before COVID, Metro had all readers installed and tested. Partner agencies have now completed their installs. Testing of their systems, inter-agency transfers, tablets (DCU), back-end reporting, and cross-agency fare capping will begin in late June. Once complete, a partner meeting will be held to agree on a joint launch date.

Cards will be available at the Pulse, City Hall, and through the mail. Metro is also trying to get cards into other re-sale locations, such as Ocean Gateway.

The availability of the re-load networks has also been delayed with dates ranging from 6/30-9/15. Some re-load locations are: Big Apple, 7-Eleven, Walgreens, CVS, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Walmart, Cumberland Farms, and Circle K. These retailers can load funds onto our TouchPass cards with cash, but will not stock them. These delays will not derail resumption of fares, but having at least some available to customers before launch is preferred.

Launching cashless on a temporary basis (mid-August to mid-September) is being discussed. It has become a national trend for the safety of riders and employees and gives Metro an opportunity to educate and bring-in more people to the card and app system.

Bus Shelter Art Project: In 2018, Creative Portland, in partnership with METRO and GPCOG, applied for a National Endowment for the Arts "Our Town" grant award. In May 2019, the project was awarded a matching grant, from the NEA, of \$25,000 to 'support a creative initiative to design artistic bus shelters.' Metro will be contributing \$6,500. Four designs were chosen for Phase One. Metro and Creative Portland are discussing locations. A plaque for each artist will be on-site with an explanation of the piece, either vinyl or a steel-cut design, which will not obstruct the driver's view of waiting passengers.

Artist #1 – Ebenezer Akakpo - shelter on Congress St.

Artist #2 – Molly Brown – no shelter on Eastern Prom, so considering Congress St.

Artist #3 – Orson Horchler - shelter on St John St.

Artist #4 -Justin Levesque – possibly shelter at USM

Shelter installs could begin as soon as August and continue into September. Metro has the space to allow this art to be displayed as several shelters were previously determined to be non-advertising space. The displays are to be permanent and Metro will maintain them, with help from the artist.

Creative Portland wants to have events at all of the shelters when they are unveiled.

New buses: Seven 2020 New Flyer buses will be delivered later this summer to replace the 2005 35' CNG Orion buses. The new buses are 40' long, diesel, and have a slightly larger seating capacity.

5. **Condemning Racism**

This is a resolution – a statement – by Metro to be a productive force to against systemic racism. It was adapted from the City of Portland's resolution and has not yet been to committee.

Matt Levine moved, second by John Thompson, to adopt Resolution 2020.1, entitled, **RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE GREATER PORTLAND TRANSIT DISTRICT (“GPTD”), CONDEMNING RACISM AND HONORING AHMAUD ARBERY, RAYSHARD BROOKS, GEORGE FLOYD AND BREONNA TAYLOR AND COMMITTING GPTD TO CONFRONTING AND ROOTING OUT INSTITUTIONAL RACISM,”** as presented.

Following discussion about specific wording, and capitalization that might focus on the Black Lives Matter movement, Jeff Levine moved to amend the motion, seconded by Belinda Ray, to add wording before the first “Now, therefore, be it resolved,” that ‘the staff and board of Metro believe that black lives matter.’ – in lower case letters.

Regarding the amendment to the motion, a roll call vote was called for by Belinda Ray, Board President. John Thompson – no; Jim Violette – no; Bill Rixon – yes; Nat Tupper – yes; Paul Bradbury – yes; Ed Suslovic – yes; Mike Foley – yes; Jeff Levine – yes; and Belinda Ray – yes. With a vote of seven (7) members in favor and two (2) opposed, the motion to amend the resolution as presented to add wording before the first “Now, therefore, be it resolved,” that ‘the staff and board of Metro believe that black lives matter.’ – in lower case letters, passed.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2020.1, entitled, **RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE GREATER PORTLAND TRANSIT DISTRICT (“GPTD”), CONDEMNING RACISM AND HONORING AHMAUD ARBERY, RAYSHARD BROOKS, GEORGE FLOYD AND BREONNA TAYLOR AND COMMITTING GPTD TO CONFRONTING AND ROOTING OUT INSTITUTIONAL RACISM,”** as amended, was again brought before the Board for a vote. A roll call vote was called for by Belinda Ray, Board President. With approval by John Thompson, Jim Violette, Bill Rixon, Nat Tupper, Paul Bradbury, Ed Suslovic, Mike Foley, Jeff Levine, and Belinda Ray, **the motion passed unanimously by all those present.** Greg Jordan will discuss with the Executive Committee how to advance this action at its meeting in August.

6. **COVID-19 Employee Paid Sick Leave and Pay Benefits**

The Board has been approving changes to Metro's COVID-19 Employee Paid Sick Leave and Pay Benefits policy on a month-to-month basis. The changes made in June to pull back on some of supplemental leave benefits were phased out in June. The updated policy being discussed at this meeting, in part, is just to recognize that those benefits no longer exist in this new version. It also allows hazard pay to continue through August 1 (the end of a pay period). At this time, all precautionary leave employees have returned.

John Thompson moved to approve the extension of benefits, with modifications, through August 1, 2020, as presented, seconded by Ed Suslovic. A roll call vote was called for by Belinda Ray, Board President. With approval by John Thompson, Jim Violette, Bill Rixon, Nat Tupper, Paul Bradbury, Ed

Suslovic, Mike Foley, Jeff Levine, and Belinda Ray, **the motion passed unanimously by all those present.**

7. CARES Act Funding – Phase II Priorities

Phase I allocated \$13.4m to the seven agencies in the PACTS region and the Board voted on how to use any funds remaining from Metro's initial \$3.9m allocation. The remaining balance of funding for the PACTS region is approximately \$40 million and PACTS has made the following distribution recommendation for Phase II. Allocations are divided into 6-month periods (July-December; January-June). Beyond item #1, the allocation recommendations are not in any specific priority order.

1. Maintain Regional Transit Service (2020-2023) – amount presented by agencies (estimated) = \$32.3 m of remaining \$40m. May drop as 6-month actuals are realized vs. current estimates.
2. Pandemic Recovery & Resiliency - \$2.7m
3. Transit System Innovation - \$3.135m
4. Municipal Budget Assistance - \$954k (applicable to only 3 agencies) – 75% would go to Metro

All numbers are subject to change. This recommendation is going to PACTS Transit committee next week and then to PACTS for action in July. Greg will inform the Board of PACTS' July action.

8. Future Agenda Items:

- Create Procedure for full CBA review – Executive Committee
- Mobility needs brought forward at PACTS – Ridership Committee
- Update by GM on METRO's role under MTA's main line assessment – Board & Committees
- TMC & micro transit – Strategic Planning
- Advertising policy – Executive Committee
- Metro 2025 Strategic Plan – Executive Committee
- 2019 Financial Audit – Finance Committee
- PACTS CARES Act Phase II allocation
- Board Attendance policy creation – Belinda has spoken to Kim Cook who stated she does not plan to run again for Portland City Council and would not be a good short-term Board member candidate. Belinda will speak to the City about it and this item will be removed.
- Finalization of General Manager contract – Executive Committee

9. Upcoming Meetings – No meetings in July

- Finance Committee – August 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
- Executive Committee – August 12, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
- Ridership Committee – August 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
- Board of Directors – August 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Ed Suslovic, seconded by John Thompson, to adjourn. A roll call vote was called for by Belinda Ray, Board president. With approval by John Thompson, Jim Violette, Bill Rixon, Nat Tupper, Paul Bradbury, Ed Suslovic, Mike Foley, Jeff Levine, and Belinda Ray, **the motion passed unanimously by all those present, and the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.**