



Salem Area Mass Transit District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIRTUAL MEETING

March 25, 2021

Pursuant to Governor Brown’s Executive Order issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held virtually.

- Zoom ID: <https://cherriots-org.zoomgov.com/j/1605194427?pwd=enJXS3ZIV1BUM3QvWEU3bnplbHYzZz09>
- Cherriots Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/cherriots>
- YouTube via <https://www.capitalcommunitymedia.org/all>
- Comcast Channel 21

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SAMTD Board of Directors meetings are video recorded and are available for viewing on YouTube through the Capital Community Media website at <https://www.capitalcommunitymedia.org/all>



Salem Area Mass Transit District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
March 25, 2021

MINUTES

PRESENT:

- Board President Ian Davidson; Directors Charles Richards, Chi Nguyen, Colleen Busch, Sadie Carney, Maria Hinojos Pressey, and Robert Krebs
- Staff Allan Pollock, General Manager; David Trimble, Deputy General Manager; Patricia Feeny, Director of Communication; Tom Dietz, Director of Operations; Paula Dixon, Director of Human Resources & Labor Relations; Steve Dickey, Director of Technology & Program Management; Scott Kirkland, Network Administrator; Dan Knauss, Contracts/Procurement Manager; Linda Galeazzi, Executive Assistant; and Kathryn Pawlick, SAMTD Legal Counsel
- Guests Ryan Farncomb, Senior Planner/Project Manager, Parametrix; Jean Sherbeck, Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee
-

A. CALL TO ORDER

6:43 PM

President Ian Davidson called the meeting to order and apologized for the delay due to connectivity issues with Facebook Live. CC:Media was able to broadcast to Channel 21 and to YouTube; therefore, the decision was made to continue to proceed. Attendance was noted and a quorum was present.

Mr. Pollock shared good news about the spread of the Covid virus for the Safety Moment. Polk County is moving in the right direction from "high risk" to "moderate risk" which includes the West Salem area so that people living there can feel good about that. Marion County remains "high risk." He encouraged people to remain vigilant and continue to practice the "Three Ws - Wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance" to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Pollock announced that Information Item H.1 regarding the South Salem Transit Center project will be moved ahead of Action Item G.1 to Approve the General Manager's Three-Year Strategic Work Plan.

President Davidson acknowledged recent violent activities that took place and denounced the violence and hate crimes targeting Asians and Asian Americans. The Board will not stand for hate or violence, discrimination or any other form of racism; but is committed to



doing its part as the public transit provider in the region to ensure that the Salem/Keizer community is a place of safety, trust and belonging. *[President Davidson's written statement is herein made a part of these minutes as Attachment A.]*

C. PRESENTATION - None

D. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

Shall the Board approve the Consent Calendar?

Presenter: President Davidson

Staff Report: 5-18 of the agenda

1. Approval of Minutes

a. February 25, 2021 Board Work Session

b. February 25, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting

Motion: **Moved to approve the Consent Calendar**

Motion By: **Director Robert Krebs**

Second: **Director Charles Richards**

Vote: **Motion passed:**

Busch, Carney, Davidson, Hinojos Pressey, Krebs, Nguyen, Richards (7)

F. ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR - None

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Briefing on the South Salem Transit Center Project

Presenter: Steve Dickey, Director of Technology and Program Management
Ryan Farncomb, Senior Planner/Project Manager, Parametrix

Staff Report: Pages 25-30 in the agenda
PowerPoint presentation

Mr. Dickey spoke about the history of the site selection process for a South Salem Transit Center location since 2014 when transit centers started with the "3 C's" Concept in the Strategic Business Plan. Mr. Dickey introduced Ryan Farncomb from Parametrix. Parametrix was selected through the Request for Proposal (RFP) approach to assist the District with the process to identify the ideal location for the South Salem Transit Center. Parametrix is currently developing an understanding of the transit market and needs, and developing a recommended change to the transit network. In April they will proceed with a community survey to understand the needs from the public; and later conduct an online engagement to vet transit center ideas to help them identify the best sites and develop a prototypical design in the summer. For more information, the community can log into www.southsalemmtc.org.



H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of FY2022-24 General Manager's Three-Year Strategic Work Plan

Presenter: Allan Pollock, General Manager

Staff Report: Pages 21-24 in the agenda

The Board is responsible for evaluating the General Manager's performance. The criteria used for the evaluation begins with the Strategic Work Plan that is developed in March by the Board and General Manager for the upcoming appraisal year. The criteria provides a benchmark of the Board's satisfaction with the general management and leadership abilities of the General Manager within the evaluation period from July 1 to June 30.

Motion: **Moved to approve the FY2022-2024 General Manager's Three-Year Strategic Work Plan**

Motion By: **Director Sadie Carney**

Second: **Director Charles Richards**

Vote: **Motion passed:**

Busch, Carney, Davidson, Hinojos Pressey, Krebs, Nguyen, Richards (7)

I. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Mr. Pollock announced that transit employees as essential employees are now eligible for the Covid vaccine. Cherrriots transit service is lending vaccination support to the community while Northwest Human Services is renovating their West Salem Office and moving to Monmouth. Cherrriots will provide bus rides for those who have an appointments to get their vaccine, who use Route 45 to Polk County, to the Oregon State Fairgrounds on Route 13 and to Western Oregon University on Route 40X where vaccine clinics are set up. Mr. Pollock noted that there will be a full service change report in May. One highlight will be the return of weekday evening service from 9:00-11:00 p.m. Sunday service is slated to begin in September.

J. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

Director Nguyen provided a written statement [herein entered as Attachment B to these minutes] and spoke with emotion about the six women of Asian descent who were killed while working to feed their families. She asked that people use their power of influence to break this cycle because no one should be made to feel they don't belong. She also announced that the selection committee for the diversity, equity and inclusion consulting services was in the next phase of the interview process.

Board members each thanked Director Nguyen for her vulnerability and being willing to share her discomfort and mourn with those who mourn. They expressed their support of equal rights for everyone.



Director Hinojos Pressey attended her first meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee on March 16 where they were informed about the South Salem site selection process and the unmet needs in transit. The next CAC meeting is June 15.

Director Carney spoke about the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration presentations called the "SKATS Planning Process. A letter from Portland Metro was sent to Mr. Jaffe about a TIP amendment to resurface I-5 and an adjustment on the bike/pedestrian project on Hollywood Road in Silverton.

President Davidson spoke about the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (MWVCOG) meeting with the new executive director and chair. He said there was no Mid-Willamette Area Commission on Transportation (MWACT) meeting. Salem's Climate Action Plan Committee met this month. Consultants gave the committee a glimpse of their modeling and why they are talking about a tripling in transit which will need more revenue. Strategies are being considered in a survey until April 23.

Director Krebs received his second Covid vaccine and encouraged others to sign up. He attended the annual meeting of the MWVCOG and felt it was a very good meeting. He also attended the Morningside Neighborhood Association meeting and SKATS. He is also involved with an intercity advocacy group to get funding.

Director Richards spoke about 400 veterans who were able to get their shots at the veterans' center where you have to walk a ways. He asked if the District could look into a stop at the V.A. Center on McGilchrist.

Director Busch provided a written report of her monthly activities that is on file. She attended Coffee with Cathy, the State of the City meetings, the State of the County and the MWVCOG Annual Awards meeting. She noted that PGE provided a donation for fire damage and prevention; \$25,000 goes to non-profit groups, \$75,000 goes to the County. She also sent kudos to the transit operators and maintenance employees who were celebrated on March 18.

K. ADJOURN BOARD MEETING

7:54 PM

Respectfully Submitted



Ian Davidson, President

Statement by Board President Ian Davidson

Before we dive into our meeting I wanted to take a few minutes to talk about recent events. As you all know, there has been an alarming increase in violence and hate crimes targeting Asians and Asian Americans in these recent months and weeks. We denounce these violent acts, which have not only spiked in their frequency, but in their gravity.

It may be comforting to think that this is a problem elsewhere, that it is somehow confined to Atlanta or other communities. But that is not the case. A few weeks ago, just four blocks from here, a 21-year-old Asian American woman was pushed down to the ground and was physically assaulted by two men who were making disparaging, racially-charged comments.

Let me be clear: this was a racially-motivated hate crime involving physical violence and harassment, targeted at a member of our community--our neighbor.

It is important to note that while this is one instance that made the news, it is not the only time violence has been done to Asian Americans in our area, and certainly it isn't the only time prejudice has been shown. Before someone commits racially-motivated violence, they have racially-prejudiced thoughts, and these sentiments have, unfortunately, been protected or minimized by influential institutions in our country. For that reason it is important that we, as an institution, are very clear about where we stand on this issue.

We will not stand for hate or violence, or any other form of racism. We are committed to doing our part, as the public transit provider in the region, to ensure that our community is a place of safety, trust, and belonging for all.

Attacks such as these are painful reminders of the importance and significance of the work our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is engaged in THANKS TO DIRECTORS CHI NGUYEN AND MARIA HINOJOS PRESSEY FOR LEADING THE WORK.

As a board, we are committed to maintaining a business and working environment that is welcoming, supportive, and safe. In our role as public servants, we will not tolerate discrimination, intimidation, or violence directed against any member of our community. With unified voices and actions we can foster a more inclusive and safer society.

ATTACHMENT B

I know words will fail me in my report tonight, because it has been an exhausting two weeks. Six women of Asian descent were murdered as they went about their daily life trying to do what any person would, trying to make a living to feed their family. It has been a long 15 months for people who have received the brunt of hate having been scapegoated and blamed for a global pandemic. And yet if I fail to speak tonight, I will have failed my community. So you're going to have to feel this discomfort with me as I struggle through my remarks.

I wish I had no tears left to cry. I wish I did not have to spend this last weekend trying to explain to my kids why they might experience life differently from their friends by merely looking different or coming from a different family composition than their friends. I wish I did not have to take a call right before tonight's work session and board meeting of an Asian person running for school board that has been targeted in a racial attack.

So my call-to-action to you is, if you have not had to do extra emotional labor responding to these events, I am asking you to use your power and privilege to interrupt hate when you see it. It boils my blood to hear when a transit employee experienced acts of hate when a person is chasing and hitting the bus while yelling racial slurs at the driver, just north of us. Shortly after this, I heard of another situation where one rider kicked another rider and her son while also hurling racial slurs. No one, I repeat NO ONE, should be made to feel like they don't belong. Unless you are an Indigenous person, regardless of how you arrived here, with or without consent, we are all guests on this land.

In conclusion, I want to use this opportunity to remind the general public that this board (just like many other boards and commissions) is made up of common, everyday people trying to serve their community. We are volunteers. We are humans. Humans come with feelings. Just like everyone else who has had to figure out how to make virtual schooling work while also working from home, so did we. When something happens in the community, we are your neighbors. I refuse to give into the hatred, I believe we are better than this. I believe the only way out of this is through love and restoring our humanity.

This brings home the point why the timing that this board has prioritized the work of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee is so needed. We have made it through the initial screening process and have invited 3 firms into the next phase of interviews. The interviews will happen this Saturday after the initial scoring round that took place March 6th. Being able to invest my emotions to a best and highest good in this way has been the most redeeming factor in these dark days. Thank you and this concludes my report.

Written by Director Chi Nguyen