



Salem Area Mass Transit District
Board of Directors

~ **LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE** ~
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Date: January 14, 2021

Place: Cherriots Administration Office	ID: meet.google.com/qbq-uuth-fff
555 Court Street NE, Suite 5230	Phone: +1 617-675-4444
Salem, Oregon 97301	PIN: 155 692 530 9137#

Meeting Called to Order 4:35 p.m. **Adjourned -** 5:20 p.m.

PRESENT (Members)	(Staff)
President Ian Davidson	Allan Pollock, General Manager/CEO
Director Colleen Busch	Linda Galeazzi, Executive Assistant
Director Sadie Carney	

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order and the attendance was noted.

SAFETY MOMENT: Mr. Pollock shared a Safety Moment to “*Be Aware.*” With the social unrest that is expected at the Salem Capitol prior to the Presidential Inauguration next week, be aware of your surroundings and if you can, stay out of the downtown area.

DISCUSSION:

2021 Federal Legislative Agenda

The Legislative Committee reviewed the draft 2021 Federal Legislative Agenda that was included in the committee’s agenda packet.

Project Descriptions in the proposed federal agenda included the “Kuebler Link” Job Center Mobility Project at \$510,000; Five (5) Zero-Emission Buses totaling \$4,567,000; Ten (10) ADA Paratransit Bus Replacements totaling \$850,000; establishing a new operations and maintenance center to house the District’s entire fleet composition on one site at \$20,000,000; and a South Salem Transit Center project in south Salem totaling \$9,500,000.

President Davidson said he wants all electric buses.

Mr. Pollock said the District will have to provide a local match with the federal funding for five electric buses if the project is approved; and that a whole new administration will be guiding the selection.

In response to questions about a new operations and maintenance center, Mr. Pollock advised that they would have an architectural/engineering firm do a facility assessment. He estimated that they would need between nine and eleven acres. The Del Webb Operations facility is seven acres. The District is transitioning to a 100% zero emission fleet, and Del Webb may not allow for the needed infrastructure nor is it big enough for the entire fleet. The District is currently conducting a facility site assessment plan to determine site requirements.

Mr. Pollock shared that a site selection study was underway to provide a foundation for project development of the *South Salem Transit Center* project. The funding request would be used for the purchase of property, design and engineering, and construction of a *Mobility as a Service* (MaaS) transit facility in south Salem.

Director Busch recommended that they look at the West Salem area for a micro-transit center in the future.

Under *Policy Issues*, the Legislative Committee considered endorsements at the federal level of the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) reauthorization funding recommendations; the Bus Coalitions' efforts for continued plus-ups to the Bus and Bus Facility competitive grant program 5339b; an infrastructure package that includes \$7.14 billion in funding for bus transit programs; and extending and making permanent the Alternative Fuels Tax Credit which expired at the end of 2020 due to congressional inaction on tax extenders legislation. The annual impact to the District's operations would be approximately \$170,000.

At the State level, *Policy Issues* were prioritized: 1) preserve and maintain public transportation investments, and a statutory change to the Clean Fuels Exchange; 2) the COVID-19 Impact on Transit, and Electric Vehicles; 3) Monitoring the I-5 bridge replacement conversations, Transportation Network Companies (TNC) that include Uber and Lyft, and the Volkswagen Settlement.

Mr. Pollock remarked that Legislative Concept (LC) 3282 was drafted by CFM Advocates for the District having to do with clean fuels and the exchange of expired energy incentive tax credits into usable Clean Fuels credits. It is hoped that the LC will become a part of the Transportation Omnibus Bill. In response to Director Carney's question, he said the District will need a sponsor.

President Davidson recommended that the District add as a Priority 2 Senate Bill 395, support for increased expenditures on footpaths and bicycle trails from one percent to five percent of amounts received from the State Highway Fund.

Mr. Pollock advised that CFM Advocates will coordinate testimony for the District at the legislative session. They will clean up the legislative agendas and prepare a staff report for the January 28 board meeting with the committee's recommendations. Director Busch volunteered to give the staff report at the January board meeting.

ADJOURNED: The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Linda Galeazzi

Recording Secretary