



SALEM AREA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, October 23, 2025

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**SALEM AREA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES: President Hinojos Pressey | Directors Joaquín Lara Midkiff | Ramiro Navarro Jr. |
Sadie Carney | Ian Davidson | Sara Duncan | Bill Holmstrom

STAFF: GM Allan Pollock | DGM David Trimble | CSO Cliff Carpentier | CFO Denise LaRue
| CELRO Jaél Rose | CPDO Shofi Azum | COO Tom Dietz | Security & Emergency Management
Coordinator Karen Garcia | Senior Manager, Project & Contract Administration Melissa Kidd | Executive
Assistants Crisandra Williams | Kirra Pressey

GUEST: Legal Counsel Sara Sayles | GFOA Representative Gloria Butsch

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Note of Attendance for a Quorum

President Hinojos Pressey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance was noted and a quorum was present.

B. Safety Minute

Benefits and Leave Coordinator Amelia Crawford presented the safety minute highlighting psychological safety in the workplace.

C. Announcements | Changes to Agenda - None

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presenter: CFO Denise LaRue and GFOA Representative Gloria Butsch

Staff Report: Pg. 4-7

CFO LaRue introduced Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) representative Gloria Butsch, who presented the District with its 13th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Butsch described GFOA's mission to promote professionalism in public financial management and shared that it includes over 21,000 members from governments across the U.S., territories, and Canada. She explained the certification process involving a 79-page checklist with over 500 items and highlighted the rigorous standards for transparency. Butsch acknowledged the District's efforts in maintaining a high national standard of financial excellence and credited CFO LaRue, the Finance Division, and Board for their supportive role.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received from Tyler McCulley and Jesse Peone (Salem Business Journal) for the Board's consideration. General Manager Pollock noted that staff is already reviewing the bus stop request mentioned in McCully's comment and will assess whether it can be implemented based on site conditions.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. **Approval of Minutes**

- I. September 25, 2025 Board Meeting
- II. October 9, 2025 Board Work Session
- III. October 15 11, 2025 Work Session

B. **Routine Business Items**

- I. Award of Contract for KTC Entry Gate Construction
- II. Award of Contract for Uniforms
- III. Appoint Budget Committee Members



Action			
Motion:	I move to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.		
Motion by:	Director Ian Davidson	Second:	Director Sara Duncan
Vote			
Aye:	President Hinojos Pressey, Directors, Lara Midkiff, Navarro, Carney, Davidson, Duncan, and Holmstrom.		
Motion passes unanimously 7-0			

5. **ITEMS DEFERRED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR** – None

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Calendar

Presenter: CFO Denise LaRue

Agenda Packet: Pg. 23-25

CFO LaRue presented the FY 2026-27 budget calendar. She noted that Oregon budget law requires board adoption of a budget by June 30, 2026, to continue operating. CFO LaRue presented two options for scheduling the three required budget committee meetings: Option 1 (consecutive days May 5-7) or Option 2 (May 5, 7, and 12). After the budget meetings, the approved budget will be presented to the board at the June 25, 2026 meeting for a budget hearing and adoption.

Action			
Motion:	I move that the Board adopt the proposed FY2026-2027 Budget Calendar utilizing Option 2.		
Motion by:	Director Maria Hinojos Pressey	Second:	Director Bill Holmstrom
Vote			
Aye:	President Hinojos Pressey, Directors, Lara Midkiff, Navarro, Carney, Davidson, Duncan, and Holmstrom.		
Motion passes unanimously 7-0			

B. Approval of Surplus Bus Donation

Presenter: COO Tom Dietz

Agenda Packet: Pg. 26-27

COO Dietz proposed donating three surplus buses to the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) for confined space training. The financial impact is minimal since the District would have received only \$1,000-\$3,000 per bus at auction. Director Lara Midkiff questioned if the buses, though requiring over \$100,000 each for refurbishment, could serve transit roles instead of police training. President Hinojos Pressey clarified that surplus buses have been replaced and exceed their useful life in miles and years, noting the FTA's requirement to maintain a spare ratio of 26% or less. Director Davidson highlighted that the DPSST provides training for various public safety professions.



Action			
Motion:	I move that the Board authorize the General Manager to approve the donation of three (3) surplus buses to the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training		
Motion by:	Director Joaquín Lara Midkiff	Second:	Director Sara Duncan
Vote			
Aye:	President Hinojos Pressey, Directors, Navarro, Carney, Davidson, Duncan, and Holmstrom.		
Nah:	Director Lara Midkiff		
Motion passes 6-1			

C. Award of Contract for EAMS Software

Presenter: COO Tom Dietz

Agenda Packet: Pg. 28

COO Dietz recommended awarding a contract to Avail Technologies Inc. for an Enterprise Asset Management System (EAMS), with a budget not to exceed \$214,562. The current software is outdated and unsupported. Avail, having won the earlier Cherriots Intelligent Transportation Systems contract, was chosen after a Source Evaluation Committee review and will complete the district's fleet and asset management software suite.

Action			
Motion:	I move that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Avail Technologies, Inc. for the delivery of an Enterprise Asset Management System and approve a project budget amount not exceed \$214,562		
Motion by:	Director Ian Davidson	Second:	Director Ramiro Navarro Jr.
Vote			
Aye:	President Hinojos Pressey, Directors, Lara Midkiff, Navarro, Carney, Davidson, Duncan, and Holmstrom.		
Motion passes unanimously 7-0			

7. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

A. Creating Community Connections Project Brief

Presenter: CELRO Jaél Rose, CPDO Shofi Azum, GM Allan Pollock

CELRO Rose reviewed the outreach campaign, which directly engaged 1,600 people face-to-face, reached over 5,000 through events, and recorded 10,000 meaningful online interactions with a reach of 180,000. She emphasized the campaign's aim to engage the community about the future of transit in Salem, Kaiser, and surrounding areas. CELRO Rose clarified misconceptions,



noting ridership alone isn't the full success measure as buses connect various community members. The Youth Zero Pass was highlighted as an investment in workforce development rather than a handout. Feedback also touched on funding mechanisms, showing how significant decision-making is to people.

CPDO Azum shared survey insights from June 12 to October 8, 2025, with 676 responses. The top priorities were improving weekend and weekday services, while introducing special event services was key for new services. September saw a spike in responses induced by a Chamber of Commerce email, largely from non-riders. Despite this, over 37% noted both enhancing current services and adding new ones as important. CELRO Rose concluded by stating transit extends beyond transportation to connection, opportunity, and access, noting increased options boost ridership. Board members appreciated the data, highlighting community needs for increased service frequency, especially in Northeast Salem and Kiezer.

GM Pollock presented a draft charter for a "Cherriots and Business Task Force" post a session with the Chamber and business coalition, suggesting a group with district board and coalition representation. The Board discussed and agreed on modifications to the charter to present to the Business Coalition the next day.

8. REPORTS

A. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

GM Pollock reported that staff will attend the upcoming Oregon Transit Association conference. He also noted that Veterans Day service will follow a Saturday schedule and that the "Bustache November" campaign is launching in collaboration with No Shave November and MTM.

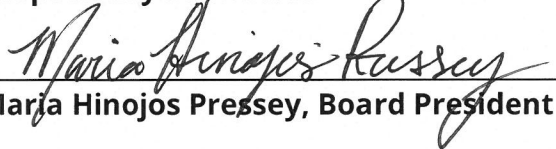
B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

President Hinojos Pressey and Directors provided reports on committees and activities in which they represent the District.

9. ADJOURN

President Hinojos Pressey adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted


Maria Hinojos Pressey, Board President