



**SALEM AREA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
**BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 5:30p.m.

ATTENDEES: Vice-President Ian Davidson | Directors Ramiro Navarro Jr. (Virtual) | Sadie Carney | Bill Holmstrom Absent: President Maria Hinojos Pressey | Director Sara Duncan

STAFF: GM Allan Pollock | DGM David Pollock | CSO Cliff Carpentier | CBDO Jaél Rose | CPDO Shofi Azum | COO Tom Dietz | Senior Manager, Project & Contract Administration Melissa Kidd | Executive Assistants Crisandra Williams | Kirra Pressey

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Note of Attendance for a Quorum

Vice-President Davidson called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m., noting President Hinojos Pressey was out this evening and requested that Vice-President Davidson preside. Attendance was noted.

B. Safety Minute

CSO Carpentier presented the safety moment, highlighting the District's efforts towards human trafficking awareness.

C. Announcements | Changes to Agenda

GM Pollock announced an additional discussion item regarding a potential fare-free day.

CBDO Rose announced the addition of the new Marketing and Communications Manager, Megan Schmidt. She highlighted Schmidt's strong background in multichannel campaigns across digital, print, social, web and event platforms, and her experience partnering with cross-functional teams.

**2. PRESENTATIONS - None**

**3. DISCUSSIONS**

A. 2026 Draft Legislative Agenda

Presenter: GM Allan Pollock

General Manager Pollock presented the proposed 2026 Federal and State Legislative Agenda, including funding requests through the U.S. Department of Transportation grant application process and associated policy priorities. Federal funding requests included construction of the South Salem Transit Center, transit security funding for the Dell Webb fence and exterior upgrades, and acquisition of ADA paratransit vehicles. State legislative priorities included preserving, maintaining, and enhancing public transportation investments; preserving the District's established transit funding authority; leveraging environmental investment opportunities; supporting increased investments in footpaths and bicycle trails; and monitoring regional passenger rail transportation initiatives.

General Manager Pollock also reported that the Governor is proposing to repeal House Bill 3991, which would result in no November vote on transportation funding measures.



The Board reviewed the priorities and principles document, which reflected primarily grammatical revisions based on prior input, and agreed to finalize the items for adoption at the January 22 Board meeting.

B. Task Force Update

Presenter: GM Allan Pollock

GM Pollock provided an update on preparations for the Task Force's first meeting scheduled for January 29th. Key developments were reported, including distribution of pre-reading materials to the 12-member task force, consisting of six Board members and six coalition members; finalization of an intergovernmental agreement with Portland State University's Oregon Consensus for facilitation services; assignment of Katie Pearmine as facilitator, who will conduct virtual check-ins with each task force member; agreement with Oregon State University's Oregon Policy Analysis Laboratory (OPAL) to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of proposed service enhancements related to the payroll tax; contracting with DHM Research through CFM Advocates for polling services; arrangements for Baker Tilly to update the Long-Range Financial Plan with FY25 data for presentation at the kickoff meeting; and scheduling Mark Aesch, CEO of TransPro, to present at a future meeting, likely in March. The goal is to complete the task force's work by May.

C. Transit Equity Day

Presenter: CBDO Jaél Rose

CBDO Rose presented a recommendation from the DRIVE Committee (Diversity, Respect, Inclusion, Value, and Equity) to approve fare-free service on Transit Equity Day, February 4, 2026, an observance honoring the legacy of Rosa Parks and recognizing the importance of equitable access to public transportation. It was noted that other transit districts in Oregon currently implement this practice.

The Board expressed support for bringing the recommendation forward as an action item at the January 22 meeting.

**4. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

A. Upcoming Agenda Items

B. Board Calendar

GM Pollock reviewed upcoming Board agenda items for January including the legislative agenda, CAC appointments, officer appointments, and fare-free day action item. He noted that bylaws discussion would be deferred to February. The January 22nd meeting would include the presentation of the customer satisfaction, community value, and employee engagement survey results.

February's work session would include ongoing task force updates, South Salem Transit Center final design discussion, and a joint session with the CAC on work plan development.

GM Pollock also shared a significant announcement regarding his intention to retire in July, after 19 years with Cherrlots. He provided a memo to those present and indicated it would be sent electronically to absent members.

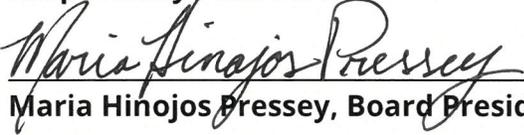


Before adjourning, Vice-President Davidson inquired about the possibility of extended service on New Year's Eve, suggesting limited routes until 2 AM and noting that TriMet offers this service through sponsorships. Staff noted that this would require negotiations and discussion of service delivery models but agreed to start that conversation.

**5. ADJOURN**

Vice-President Davidson adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted**

  
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**Maria Hinojos Pressey, Board President**