



The District submitted grant requests at the federal level for projects and advocated for policy issues listed on pages 1-3 of the agenda. Passage of the 2020 *THUD Appropriations Bill* in the House and Senate was a success. The bill will soon be signed by the President. "Plus ups" were also a significant part of that through the work of APTA and the *Bus Coalition*. The District's request for a \$2.1 million grant to replace five compressed natural gas buses was not awarded. Joel Rubin, the federal affairs consultant for the District and Mr. Pollock will review why the application was not awarded with the FTA on January 6, 2020.

The 2019 State Legislative Agenda (on page 4 of the agenda) included the continued and appropriate implementation of *House Bill 2017*, protecting senior and disabled transit funding against reduction, monitoring discussions related to transit governance, and researching opportunities to convert existing business energy tax credits into *Clean Fuels* credits to sell on the marketplace. In addition, the District supported the legislative priorities of the *Oregon Transit Association (OTA)* on page 5 of the agenda.

### **Proposed 2020 Legislative Priorities - Federal**

The Legislative Committee deliberated on federal legislative priorities and projects to develop the 2020 proposed federal legislative agenda. Consideration was given to replacing buses with newer technology and safety features, or electric buses, long-term bus maintenance facility needs, or a long term electric corridor project. The Committee also considered longer term projects such as the completion of the South Salem Transit Center project, development of a third transit center that has been identified for the east side of the Salem-Keizer area, and the ITS project. Discussion ensued about projects to submit for a *LoNo* grant and/or a 5339 discretionary grant.

### **Proposed 2020 Legislative Priorities - State**

Mr. Penn advised that the biggest issues at the State level will be the cap and trade program and a new I-5 bridge over the Columbia River. The Oregon Transit Association priorities for 2020 were also reviewed on page 5 of the agenda.

The Legislative Committee deliberated over their recommended priorities for the 2020 Legislative Session that include the Special Transportation Fund (STF) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) consolidation and protecting the STIF funds for its appropriate use; protecting the funding for senior and disabled transit services; and finding opportunities to convert the existing business energy tax credits into Clean Fuels exchange credits to sell on the marketplace. Discussion ensued about monitoring discussions having to do with transit governance that may affect the District, checking into

and tracking the multi-state initiative for the Volkswagen settlement, transit safety, the third bridge initiative at the State level and high speed rail from Portland to Salem.

#### **4. Next Steps**

Mr. Pollock will get input from Mr. Rubin about funding for the potential projects discussed, and incremental grant funding for long term projects at the federal level. Mr. Pollock will continue the discussions with PGE, Salem Electric and other partners about the potential options for an electric bus project.

Mr. Pollock reviewed the Legislative Committee's proposed priorities for the 2020 federal agenda – the FY21 appropriations, infrastructure package and alternative fuels; and the priorities for the 2020 state agenda - protecting the STIF funds for its appropriate use; protecting the funding for senior and disabled transit services; and finding opportunities to convert the existing business energy tax credits into Clean Fuels exchange credits to sell on the marketplace.

Mr. Pollock, Mr. Penn and Mr. Rubin will work together to clean up the proposed legislative agendas by email and ask Legislative Committee members for feedback prior to the January 23, 2020 board meeting. During the Legislative Session, it will be the role of the Committee to confer on any hot button issues that may need to be addressed. The 2020 Oregon Legislative Session convenes on February 3 to the Constitutional Sine Die on March 8.

Respectfully submitted,

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