Budget Hearing
Umpqua Public Transportation District
Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
3076 NE Diamond Lake Blvd, Roseburg, OR 97470

Meeting Minutes DRAFT

1. **Call to Order 5:25 pm**

2. **Roll Call**

Doug Mendenhall – A	Michaela Hammerson - P	John Estill – A	Todd Vaughn - P
Gregg Kennerly – P	Cathye Dewhirst-Curreri - P	Lisa Lanza - P	

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.

4. **Consent Agenda**
   4.1 May 9, 2025, Draft Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

   UPTD Board of Directors did not approve May 9, 2025, Draft Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as they need to be approved by the Budget Committee.

5. **Presentation of FY 25-26 Budget**
   5.1 Letter to ODOT
   Ben Edtl explained that ODOT is seeking repayment of $250,000 related to chargers purchased under a prior grant. The chargers remain unused, out of warranty, and difficult to sell, with no brokers or buyers willing to take them even at a discounted rate.

   It was emphasized that the current board and executive team were not responsible for the original purchase, funding, or failure to meet grant requirements. However, the district is left with the obligation and must determine how to proceed in the best interest of the organization.

   Ben Edtl proposed a good-faith repayment plan contingent on board approval and anticipated future funding increases:

   - Begin June 2025 with quarterly payments of $10,000 through the 2025–2027 biennium to demonstrate good faith.
   - If Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) revenues increase by 20% or more in 2026 (as expected with a potential transportation package), the district could make a balloon payment in summer 2026 to settle the balance.

- If the chargers are sold prior to that time, 50% of the proceeds would be remitted to ODOT, with quarterly payments continuing until the balloon payment resolves the remaining balance.

The board discussed that this proposal does not imply fault but is intended as a pragmatic resolution. For budgeting purposes, the district must plan for potential quarterly payments, though no final decision or commitment was made. The board will review the draft letter to ODOT in full before determining next steps at a future meeting.

5.1 FY 25-26 Proposed Budget

Sheri Bleau reported that the budget previously forwarded to the Board reflected an unappropriated ending balance of $8,534, which included a $20,000 repayment allocation to ODOT. With the proposed adjustment to $40,000, the balance would place the district in deficit.

To address this, staff reviewed all routes and conducted a detailed ridership and cost analysis. The study revealed areas of over-service, particularly in Winston and South County, as well as inefficiencies in early morning and weekend service hours on the Red and Green lines. Adjustments were made to improve efficiency without reducing services, resulting in significant savings.

Key findings and adjustments:

- Projected annual cost savings of approximately $275,000, plus an additional $25,000 from weekend Red/Green line adjustments.
- These savings, when factored into the budget, allow for a positive balance even with the ODOT repayment commitment.
- Consideration of a COLA increase for drivers:
    - At 2.5% COLA, balance remains positive.
    - At 5% COLA, projected unappropriated ending balance is $199,000.
- The revised budget also reflects the Board-approved CEO contract salary of $130,000.

George Carrillo emphasized that services are not being reduced but streamlined to match ridership demand, using smaller vehicles where appropriate. This approach improves public perception, reduces fuel and maintenance costs, and positions the district to operate more sustainably. Future service expansions would require partnerships with local municipalities.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adopt the budget as amended, including the ODOT repayment, and driver COLA increase.

Motion to adopt the FY 25-26 Proposed Budget as amended made by Director Todd Vaughn. Second by Director Gregg Kennerly. **Motion passed with 5 "Yes", 2 "Absent".**

6. **Public Comment**
   No comments were made.

7. **Adjournment at 5:56 pm.**