CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
AGENDA

Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 8:15 a.m.
City of Corvallis Madison Avenue Conference Room
500 SW Madison, Across Madison from City Hall

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 12, 2006 CACOT meeting

III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS - Items not already on agenda

IV. MONROE STREETSCAPE CONCEPTUAL PLAN - Opportunity for additional discussion

V. INFORMATION SHARING - Written report distributed during meeting

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings:
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2006, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Conf. Room
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2006, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Conf. Room

The Madison Avenue Conference Room is accessible to the public.
Please contact Michelle Rhoads at (541) 766-6916
if you will need special accommodations to attend the meeting.

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
July 12, 2006

Members Present
Stephan Friedt
Emily Hagen, City Councilor
Bob Lowry, Chair
Brandon Trelstad
Lita Verts, Vice-Chair
Robert E. Wilson

Absent
Scott Carroll

Staff
Jim Mitchell, Public Works
Lisa Namba, Public Works
Michelle Rhoads, Public Works

Visitors
Paul Morgan
Catherine Friedt
Charlie Tomlinson, City Councilor
Trish Daniels, City Councilor

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Infor-mation Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of Minutes- June 14, 2006			Approved
III. CACOT/Visitor's Comments	X		
IV. Monroe Streetscape Conceptual Plan			Recommended approval to move ahead with plan
V. Information Sharing	X		
VI. Adjournment	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

Introductions of Commission members, staff and visitors were made.

II. Approval of Minutes- June 14, 2006

Commissioners Friedt and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve the June 14, 2006 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor's Comments

Chair Lowry asked about the status of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project for a traffic signal at 9th and Jefferson. The issue was with the buses making a right turn from Jefferson onto 9th. To do this, the drivers have to encroach into the oncoming traffic lane, or if there is an oncoming car, the drivers have to wait to make the turn or encroach on the corner. Mr. Mitchell said a study was done to determine the need for a traffic signal. Trees at the intersection were removed and a decision was made to not go ahead with the traffic signal project.

IV. Monroe Streetscape Conceptual Plan

Councilors Tomlinson and Daniels appeared at the meeting to present a conceptual plan for a bicycle/pedestrian and transit vehicular safety plan for Monroe Avenue from the 14th/15th Street intersection to Arnold Way.

Monroe Avenue has heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Councilors Tomlinson and Daniels approached OSU more than a year ago about this plan. Councilor Tomlinson serves on OSU's Campus Planning Committee as a neighborhood representative. Since OSU conducts corridor studies, the councilors asked OSU to conduct one for Monroe Avenue because it is shared by OSU and the City. OSU paid for this draft design, which was presented to the Commission for comment and, if desirable, an endorsement of the plan. Another presentation will be made to BPAC at its August 4th meeting and the councilors will ask for a recommendation to proceed with getting this plan on the CIP project list.

Mr. Mitchell presented a detailed description of the plan, presenting information page by page. Bus shelters will increase by four, covered bike shelters by six, and there will be 40 more trees. There will be an increase in street lighting, mostly in the form of ornamental lighting. Widened biking lanes, from six feet to eight feet, are intended to increase safety and traffic calming. Pavement designs will signal motorists and bicyclists that these intersection crossings require more attention to surroundings.

Mr. Mitchell was asked if the raised crosswalk on Monroe Avenue near 25th Street would slow vehicle traffic

significantly. Mr. Mitchell said although vehicle traffic may be slowed somewhat, pedestrian safety will be increased by the crosswalk. Councilor Tomlinson said barrier plantings will also help with pedestrian safety.

Specific comments by CACOT members follow.

- Lowry - Concern on the width of vehicle travel lane versus bike lane. Need to account for width of the buses, including the exterior bus mirrors, and proximity to bicyclists.
- Verts - Campus Way is currently narrow; would need to widen street to accommodate two-way traffic and bike lanes.
- Friedt and Lowry - Correction needed on the plan; there is a far-side stop outbound at Monroe & 26th (past 26th) not a near-side stop in front of The Beanery.
- Hagen - Maintain service/delivery lane for vehicles on Monroe by the restaurants and stores.
- Lowry and Friedt - Ramps at Monroe & 25th may potentially slow eastbound vehicles on Monroe as people turn right into OSU; that includes transit buses on tight schedules.

Page L-5 of the draft plan

- Lowry and Verts - Pedestrians jaywalk at mid-blocks; need to create barrier plantings to direct people to crosswalks at intersections.
- Hagen, with concurrence from others - Diagonal sidewalk behind fountain at Monroe & Campus Way encourages mid-block crossings.
- Wilson - Noticed the two vehicle pull-outs on Monroe have been eliminated in these plans; check with Rogers Hall and other interested OSU parties as the pull-out next to that building is used by service and delivery vehicles.
- Wilson - Barrier plantings will require irrigation and maintenance, which is an ongoing expense; landscape in small park strips like this are a challenge to maintain for those reasons.
- Rhoads - Location of proposed bus stop/shelter on north side of Monroe, west of 23rd St. would cause bus to block 23rd St. intersection and pedestrian cross walk and may encourage a mid-block crossing.

Page L-6 of the draft plan - no comments noted

Page L-7 of the draft plan

- Route 5 outbound stop on Kings just north of Monroe is not depicted on the plan and it would be helpful to include it.
- Trelstad - Why is the Kings & Monroe three-way intersection raised? Response was to provide for pedestrian cross walks.

Page L-8 of the draft plan

- Consensus to keep the Route 1/7 shelter/stop at Kings & Monroe a near side stop due to its proximity to the Route 5 shelter around the corner on Monroe.
- Consensus to maintain the location of the inbound stop on Monroe just east of Kings to allow it to serve Route 5 in addition to Routes 1 and 7.
- Hagen - Need more bike parking at Monroe & 16th
- Wilson - Service trucks are currently parking in front of the Circle K store on Monroe where a proposed bulb is shown on the plan; need to address truck parking.
- Ms. Rhoads provided a reminder about the concern expressed during last month's Commission meeting on ingress and egress at the OSU parking lot at 16th and Monroe. It was suggested that ingress and egress to the parking lot be limited to right turns only.

Page L-9 of the draft plan

- Need to add the location of two existing outbound bus stops on Monroe; one just west of Monroe, in front of Cobblestone Square; the other on the opposite side of the street inbound, just east of 14th.
- Lowry - Linn-Benton Loop bus system may have interest in turning right from 14th onto Monroe if the intersection can be improved to accommodate the right turn of the 40 foot bus, noting that it would also require the improvement of the intersection of 14th/15th & Jefferson. Councilor Daniels requested that the Loop operator provide information on potential cost savings if the Loop bus was able to use 14th due to an improved intersection with Monroe.
- Hagen - Supportive of service/delivery parking on the north side of Monroe; Councilor Daniels said BPAC Commissioners suggested setting delivery times for businesses on Monroe. This would limit the amount of traffic congestion in the area.
- Hagen - Need to improve bicycle traffic lane between 14th & 15th.
- Verts - Expressed concern that the implementation of

more bulb outs will lead to dissatisfaction by motorists. Mr. Mitchell said he has heard nothing but compliments from pedestrians vis a vis the effectiveness of the bulb outs. In fact, he has received requests for more bulb outs. Councilor Hagen said she too was skeptical at first of the bulb outs' effectiveness but has been swayed into thinking they are useful.

Commissioner Trelstad asked about a time line for the plan. Councilor Daniels said the first step is to get the project into the CIP. If approved, staff will attempt to acquire grant funding. This would be made much easier if OSU and the City were in agreement on the project. OSU would incorporate its portion of the project in its development plan. It is very likely that the plan would be done on a piecemeal basis. Mr. Mitchell said it is hoped that once the plan is completed along Monroe, businesses located along the street will follow suit in beautifying their own landscapes and store fronts, much in the same way that businesses on First Street have followed the improved streetscape of the river front.

There was a general consensus by the Commission to recommend moving forward with the CIP process for the plan, with the understanding that the Commission does not necessarily agree with every piece of the plan.

CACOT members asked for staff to supply them with the mirror-to-mirror measurements of the Gillig buses.

V. Information Sharing

- On Chair Lowry's behalf, Ms. Rhoads said Chair Lowry is requesting CACOT input on what Oregon needs for transportation in the future. Chair Lowry has a meeting within the next week during which he will be asked to provide that input. Vice Chair Verts said she desires an efficient commuter train along the I-5 corridor. Efficiency was defined as frequent, on-time connections, and ability to just "hop on" the train without having to make advance reservations. Commissioner Wilson stated he supports Chair Lowry's capacity to represent CACOT interests in this matter. Ms. Rhoads asked the Commission to contact Chair Lowry within the next few days with any additional comments or suggestions.

- Ms. Rhoads reported on the upcoming Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Triennal Review of the City's transit

system operations, policies, and procedures. Because the City receives FTA 5307 transit operations funding, comprising approximately 25% of the City's transit operating revenue, the FTA is required to conduct a review of the City's transit system every three years. The review covers ADA matters, drug and alcohol monitoring of drivers, fares, procurement practices, vehicle maintenance and various other matters. Ms. Rhoads was asked about the anticipated result of the review. Because this is FTA's first review of the City, it is anticipated that FTA will suggest some changes or improvements. FTA considers this to be an educational and learning experience for the City.

- Ms. Namba was asked about the state of the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) program partnership between the City and Citizens Bank. Citizens Bank decided to prioritize its BETC funding to offer it to its clients only. The City is no longer a client of Citizens Bank. It is anticipated that Bank of America, the new City's new financial institution, will be able to assist the City with its BETC program.

- Ms. Rhoads expressed her appreciation to CTS drivers for their roles in record ridership.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioners Wilson and Friedt, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve adjournment. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>Future Meetings</u>:
Wed., September 13, 2006, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room
Wed., October 11, 2006, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Memorandum

DATE August 9, 2006

TO: CACOT Members

FROM: Michelle Rhoads, Transit Manager

SUBJECT: Information Sharing Written Report

- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Triennial Review -** While most areas of our Transit program were in compliance with FTA requirements, needed improvements were identified for completion by November 2006.

- **Routes and On-Time Performance -** CTS on-time performance in July was 98% using the same data collection and reporting methodology used in the past. The automated system is also being used to monitor performance.

- **Monroe Streetscape Capital Improvement Project -** Staff follow-ups regarding the project and requests for information during last month's CACOT meeting have been completed.

- **Group Pass Program with Samaritan Health Services (SHS) -** Welcome aboard, SHS employees! The new program with SHS went into effect in July. Staff participated in four transportation fairs at SHS facilities and advised SHS staff regarding promotional materials, to help promote the new benefit to SHS employees (and the community). Thank you to CACOT member Scott Carroll for helping facilitate this with SHS. Staff will continue to assist as needed on SHS regional transportation needs such as with the Linn-Benton Loop.

- **Ridership -** Ridership reports will be distributed during the meeting. Highlights are:

  - **CTS set a new July ridership record with 41,959 rides.** The new annual record is a 1.4% increase over the prior record set in July 2002 of 41,379 rides. This is also a 6.9% increase over the past 5 year prior average for July of 39,228.
  - **Benton County Fair Shuttle -** Ridership results will not be available until later this week, but it appears that ridership increased over prior years.

- **Philomath provided 1,074 rides in July**. This was not a new monthly record but it was an increase of 14.3% over the past 5 year average for July of 940.
- **Dial-A-Bus** ridership information will be available after the meeting.

- **Auto-Announce/Passenger Information System -** The vendor has adjusted the programming on one bus to test the timing of the change of route information on the exterior reader board of that one bus as it arrives/enters the Downtown Transit Center (DTC, 5th & Monroe). Results are being monitored prior to implementation system-wide.

- **Upcoming Events and Promotions -**

  - **Hoop Jam, August 11-12, 2006 -** Buses will detour off of Monroe during the event.
  - **Fall Festival, September 22-24 2006 -** Buses will operate from 9:45 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.