

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT AGENDA

**Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 8:20 a.m.
Madison Avenue Meeting Room
500 SW Madison Avenue**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
December 14, 2011
- III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
- VI. INFORMATION SHARING
- VII. COMMISSION REQUESTS AND REPORTS
- VIII. PENDING ITEMS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 8:20 a.m, Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Commission Members:

Stephan Friedt, Chair

Robert E. Wilson

Susan Hyne, Vice-Chair

Kriste York

Ray Shimabuku

Robert Monasky

Brandon Trelstad

Evan Sorce, ASOSU Representative

Mike Beilstein, Council Liaison

The Madison Avenue Meeting Room is accessible to the public.
Please contact Tim Bates at (541) 766-6916
if you need special accommodations to attend the meeting.

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
December 14, 2011**

Present

Susan Hyne, Vice Chair
Mike Beilstein, Council Liaison
Robert Monasky
Ray Shimabuku
Evan Sorce
Robert E. Wilson
Kriste York

Staff

Tim Bates, Public Works
Brie Caffey, Public Works

Visitors

Absent

Stephan Friedt, Chair
Brandon Trelstad

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of November 9, 2011 Minutes			Approved, as amended.
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	N/A		
IV. Old Business	N/A		
V. New Business	N/A		
VI. Information Sharing	X		
VII. Commission Requests and Reports	N/A		
VIII. Pending Items	N/A		
IX. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:27 am

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 am by Vice Chair Hyne. Introductions of Commission members and staff were made.

II. Approval of Minutes

Councilor Beilstein noted that he should not be referred to in the minutes as “Commissioner” because he is not a voting member of CACOT. **With that amendment, Commissioners Shimabuku and Wilson, respectively, moved and seconded to approve the November 9, 2011 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

None.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Information Sharing

Mr. Bates mentioned that the Corvallis Gazette Times recently included a news article about First Student bus drivers being upset over their new health insurance coverage. The article reported the Amalgamated Transit Union’s (ATU) claims that First Student violated the terms of the Corvallis Municipal Code’s wage ordinance when it selected Salem Kaiser Permanente as the drivers’ health plan administrator. Mr. Bates said the City Attorney’s and City Manager’s Offices are aware of the conflict and the City’s interpretation is that a Salem Kaiser Permanente plan does not violate the ordinance.

Mr. Bates reviewed the Information Sharing Report. Comments in addition to the report included:

Mr. Bates explained how the Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) program works. Mrs. Caffey said there is more information about BETC on CorvallisTransit.com under the funding paragraph of the “About CTS” link. Councilor Beilstein noted that BETC has historically been an important part of CTS funding.

Mr. Bates said that the Transit Operations Fee (TOF) rate is due to be adjusted on Feb 1, 2012 to the average cost of fuel in 2011. Councilor Beilstein said since utility bills are reset in March, they timed the TOF adjustment to align with the utility bill adjustments. Mr. Bates said the TOF rate floor is \$2.75 but there is no rate ceiling.

Mr. Bates reported that he and Lisa Namba are scheduled to be presenters at the Northwest Transportation Conference at OSU on February 8th. Their presentation will be from 1:30 pm-3:00 pm and will focus on implementing a fareless transit system. He also noted that there will be a webinar on Thursday, December 15th, reviewing case studies of various agencies that have converted to fareless transit and that Corvallis will be included in their discussion. Mr. Bates will send an email a link to the webinar, as well as the draft of the information to be presented to Commissioners who may be interested in participating.

Mr. Bates mentioned that the “Coast to Valley Express” will be integrated into a new, five-county connector service operated by Benton County and called “North by

Northwest.” Commissioner Monasky encouraged staff to list the system on CorvallisTransit.com so riders will be aware of the connections. Mrs. Caffey confirmed that the ‘Connections’ page of CorvallisTransit.com will include a link to the “North by Northwest” information as soon as it becomes available.

Commissioner Shimabuku asked how CTS ADA paratransit rides are different than Benton County’s Special Transportation Fund (STF) rides. Mr. Bates explained the two programs and noted that when CTS became fareless, staff had to more clearly define the differences to riders since ADA paratransit rides are fareless and STF rides are not.

Councilor Beilstein said he hopes to see an increase in ridership to about 100,000 riders per month to justify the TOF to fee payers and make them feel they are getting good value for their money. Commissioner Wilson noted that a fareless bus system is a positive contribution to the community as a whole. Commissioner York agreed that there are intangible benefits to a fareless bus service that would be difficult to measure. Commissioner Monasky asked about the system’s maximum capacity and Mr. Bates said that is difficult to determine because some runs, like a midday run when so much of the community is at work or school, will never be full. Commissioner Hyne noted the new VIS system should help staff determine the system needs. She asked staff to research other fareless systems to see if ridership continued to increase after the first year of fareless service.

Commissioner Sorce said that the OSU Student Sustainability Initiative would like to host an anniversary party to celebrate the first year of fareless transit and to further educate students about CTS. Staff said they welcome the idea and would participate by providing staff, information and support materials if requested.

VII. Commission Requests and Reports

None.

VIII. Pending Items

Mr. Bates noted that the number of on-board incidents have been in line with the increase in passengers.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioners Monasky and Sorce, respectively, moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 11, 2012, 8:20 am, Madison Avenue Meeting Room

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 4, 2012
TO: CACOT Members
FROM: Tim Bates, Transit Coordinator
SUBJECT: Information Sharing Report

BETC - Staff secured two local pass-through partners to purchase Business Energy Tax Credit credits for a transit operations project. The pass-through partners paid the Transit Fund a total of over \$622,00 for the tax credits.

NW Transportation Conference - Tim Bates and Lisa Namba were scheduled to present at this February 8, 2012 meeting. However, the Oregon Governor's office has prohibited state agency participation in conferences until further notice. This means that the Oregon Department of Transportation's participation in the Northwest Transportation Conference will be severely restricted, and the ban applies to most speakers as well as to attendees. The conference Steering Committee will be meeting as soon as possible to assess the situation and decide whether to cancel, reschedule or continue with the conference.

Ridership - Percentage changes are based on rides per service hour due to the differences in days of service and revised routes effective September 22, 2008.

- **CTS provided 79,456 rides in December, an average of 34.2 rides/service hour, a 29.1% increase from December, 2010.** Ridership for December, 2010 was 58,193, an average of 26.5 rides/service hour.
- **Philomath Connection provided 2,181 rides in December, an average of 15.3 rides/service hour, a 2.8% increase from December, 2010.** Ridership for December, 2010 was 2,218, an average of 14.8 rides/service hour.
- **Beaver Bus provided 713 rides in December, an average of 9.9 rides/service hour, a 31.8% increase from December, 2010.** Ridership for December, 2010 was 541, an average of 7.5 rides/service hour.
- **Holiday Trolley provided 1,560 rides this year, an average of 33 rides/service hour.** Ridership for 2010 was 2,807, an average of 33 rides/service hour.
- **ADA Paratransit** - December ridership was 426. Ridership for December, 2010 was 497.
- **99 Express Adair Village** - December ridership was unavailable from Benton County at the time of publication.

Follow-up to ongoing issues:

- **DTC Behavioral Issues** - First Student staff reports no increase in disruptive behavior at the DTC or aboard CTS buses.