

# **CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT AGENDA**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2011, 8:20 a.m.  
Madison Avenue Meeting Room  
500 SW Madison Avenue**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
June 8, 2011
- III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - Evaluating Purpose of CACOT - Discussion
- VI. INFORMATION SHARING
- VII. COMMISSION REQUESTS AND REPORTS
- VIII. PENDING ITEMS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, September 14, 2011, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Commission Members:

Stephan Friedt, Chair

Susan Hyne, Vice-Chair

Ray Shimabuku

Brandon Trelstad

Mike Beilstein, Council Liaison

Robert E. Wilson

Commissioner - Vacant

Commissioner - Vacant

ASOSU Representative - Vacant

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.

**Approved**

by CACOT  
July 13, 2011

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
MINUTES  
June 8, 2011**

**Present**

Bob Lowry, Chair  
Susan Hyne  
Tom Kincaid  
Ray Shimabuku  
Brandon Trelstad  
Robert E. Wilson  
Mike Beilstein, Council Liaison

**Absent**

Stephan Friedt, Vice-Chair  
Ryan Ludlow

**Staff**

Tim Bates, Public Works  
Brie Caffey, Public Works  
Steve Rogers, Public Works

**Visitors**

Lt Cord Wood, Corvallis Police Dept.  
Linda Elder, Dial-A-Bus  
Patty Hance, First Student  
Tino Arispe, First Student  
Emily Gillespie, Gazette-Times

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Information Only</b>	<b>Held for Further Review</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of April 13, 2011 Minutes			Approved
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	X		
IV. Old Business	N/A		
V. New Business			Elected Commissioner Friedt as Chair, Commissioner Hyne as Vice Chair
VI. Information Sharing	X		
VII. Commission Requests and Reports	X		
VIII. Pending Items	N/A		
IX. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

**I. Introductions**

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

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Commissioners Hyne and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded to approve the April 13, 2011 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

**III. CACOT/Visitor Comments**

Ms. Patti Hance, Driver Supervisor from First Student, addressed the Commission about safety concerns of the drivers. Mr. Bates invited Lt Cord Wood of the Corvallis Police Department (CPD) to respond to Ms. Hance's concerns. Ms. Hance said that because the Benton County Probation Office is across the street from the Downtown Transit Center (DTC) and loiterers have been banned from the library steps, bus drivers are reporting that kids are now migrating to the DTC and engaging in nuisance behaviors such as smoking, horseplay, appearing to buy and sell drugs, banging on buses as drivers pull away, sleeping on the benches, using foul language, leaving garbage, etc. Lt. Wood agreed that the DTC is in an area that has become attractive to certain groups due its proximity to the library, New Beginnings Treatment Center, and the church on Madison Avenue that offers a soup kitchen. He noted that the police can not exclude them from the public area without due cause. Ms. Hance said the drivers have seen a few more patrols through the area which has somewhat discouraged individuals from sleeping on the shelter benches. Some drivers report that some CTS longtime riders are choosing not to ride because of the issues at the DTC. Lt. Wood said that the police department has tried enforcing the sleeping ordinance in public places throughout the City but they have not had much success. He reported that they have increased patrols in that area and offered to pass along the information about possible drug transactions.

Ms. Hance asked Lt. Wood what the drivers can legally do to help the situation. Lt. Wood said that if you see a drug transaction, call and report it immediately at the non-emergency dispatch number, 541-766-6911. Mr. Bates mentioned a problem with people standing in the street within the DTC, putting themselves in the way of the buses and asked if there is a law covering this. Lt. Wood said you can't stand in the street and block traffic, however it is difficult to enforce, especially at the DTC which is not a right-of-way. Chair Lowry asked if warning signs would help. Lt. Wood emphasized that if you see something that is criminal activity, call the police immediately.

Tino Arispe, a driver with First Student, reported that he was concerned about the loitering and possible drug transactions that he has witnessed at the DTC. Mr. Bates reiterated Lt. Wood's suggestions and mentioned that it might be good to have some sort of verbal code that drivers have worked out with First Student dispatch when they need to use the radio to report a crime in progress. Mr. Arispe said he loves the fareless system because it helps so many people who need it. Chair Lowry thanked Mr. Arispe for his time and interest and welcomed any CTS drivers to attend CACOT meetings. Mr. Bates mentioned that he receives far more compliments about the First Student drivers than he does complaints.

Councilor Beilstein suggested that while it may not be sustainable, increased foot patrol in that general downtown area might be a good idea. Lt. Wood said CPD has been putting out bike patrols, as staffing allows, and found that they have a bigger impact than foot patrols. He said the City has a "directed patrol list" where officers patrol specific

areas when they have the opportunity and offered to put the DTC on that list. Commissioner Wilson asked what hours the problems seem to occur. Ms. Hance said that most issues seem to be reported 8 am to 5 pm, when the groups break from their parole and probation classes. Commissioner Wilson suggested the police find out when those break times occur and schedule patrols at those times. Chair Lowry noted that sometimes random pass-throughs are the most effective deterrent.

Mr. Bates mentioned that the Lane Transit District uses greeters and while their main job is to help people get on the correct bus, their presence might help with these kind of issues. Lt. Wood said he didn't know if that would work here and didn't know if CPD would support the idea, as it would depend on their role. Mr. Bates mentioned that as late as last year, student monitors staffed the Beaver Bus. Ms. Caffey noted that when she works at the DTC putting up posters, she is able to discourage smokers and other inappropriate behavior simply by politely asking the person(s) to relocate.

Commissioner Shimabuku mentioned that calling 766-6911 might be difficult for persons with developmental disabilities and asked if it would still be acceptable if someone called 911. Lt. Wood said calling 911 is permissible if they see a crime happening at the time of the call.

Linda Elder, Director of Dial-A-Bus, reported that two of her drivers of buses that arrive to the DTC at 6:15 am have been harassed and intimidated by homeless individuals. Lt. Wood said when that happens, the same rules apply as stated above - call the police immediately. He said the driver doesn't have to hang around and keep themselves in danger but they need to be available to point out the person who is causing the trouble.

Ms. Caffey said that one of the gentlemen at the DTC she spoke with complained that the ordinances did not tell him where he is permitted to smoke. Ms. Caffey suggested that City staff work with Benton County to create a designated area for their smokers to go to on their breaks. Chair Lowry suggested considering dedicating one of the parking spaces in the far corner of the parking lot as a designated smoking area and have the help groups provide a shelter for that area. Ms. Elder asked if the area had "no loitering" signs. Lt. Wood said there is no ordinance about loitering, and said when you designate an area, you concentrate all of those other issues to the area and sanction the activity by de facto stating, "You can be here to do this." Councilor Beilstein noted the library has a 50 foot ban on smoking and it is feasible we could do that for the DTC, although he is reluctant to do so.

Mr. Bates asked Ms. Hance to review the Code of Conduct with CTS drivers so they understood their role in maintaining appropriate behavior at the DTC.

Steve Rogers, Corvallis Public Works Director, acknowledged Chair Lowry who has termed out as a CACOT Commissioner. Mr. Rogers said about 20 years ago, when he started to attend CACOT meetings, Chair Lowry was there. He noted that Chair Lowry is very thoughtful, calm, enthusiastic, and gives freely of his time. Chair Lowry volunteers not just with CACOT but state-wide on both transit and railroad issues. Mr. Rogers

recalled that in the 80's and early 90's, the City had a series of transit levies and Chair Lowry was very active on those. He closed by acknowledging Chair Lowry as an effective leader of this group. Chair Lowry responded by thanking Mr. Rogers and noting it has been great working with Steve.

#### **IV. Old Business**

None.

#### **V. New Business**

Mr. Bates said it was time to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair of CACOT. Chair Lowry mentioned that while Commissioner Friedt was not in attendance at the meeting, he had told Chair Lowry that he would be honored to accept a nomination to either position. Chair Lowry then asked for nominations. Vice-Chair Friedt, Commissioner Trelstad and Commissioner Hyne were nominated for Chair. Commissioner Hyne withdrew her name for Chair, stating that her preference would be the Vice-Chair position.

**Chair Lowry conducted a vote and Vice-Chair Friedt was elected for the Chair position by a vote of six (6) to one (1).**

Chair Lowry asked for nominations for the Vice-Chair position. Commissioner Hyne was the only nomination.

**Chair Lowry conducted a vote and Commissioner Hyne was unanimously elected for the Vice-Chair position.**

#### **VI. Information Sharing**

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

Mr. Bates mentioned that this is Chair Lowry's and Commissioner Kincaid's last CACOT meeting as Commissioners and thanked them for their service. He has been looking for individuals to fill the vacant positions and has spoken to Robert Monasky, an employee at OSU, who is an enthusiastic transit rider. Mr. Monasky also did a great deal of volunteer work to get CTS on Google Transit. Mr. Bates and Commissioner Trelstad spoke about a gentleman on the OSU student sustainability committee who may be interested in serving as the ASOSU liaison. Mr. Bates requested referrals of other potential candidates from CACOT members.

In a discussion about Benton County's 99 Express service, the runs to Adair Village will receive JARC funding. However, the City of Monroe is outside of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) jurisdiction so the 99 Express to Monroe is not eligible for urbanized area JARC funds. Commissioner Trelstad asked how it came to be that extra JARC money is available. Mr. Bates said that CTS recently met two National Transit Database criteria for additional funds which increased Corvallis' 5307 allocation from approximately \$800,000 to slightly more than \$1,000,000. With the additional 5307 funds, CTS does not need to use the full amount of its JARC grant, making it available to

Adair Village. Adair Village is providing the 50/50 local match for the JARC grant which pays for the 99 Express to Adair Village. Chair Lowry asked if JARC funds will exist beyond the current ones in place. Mr. Rogers answered that there is no re-authorization of a new highway bill at this time, so it is impossible to say.

Mr. Bates reported the FTA has approved and accepted the City's environmental study and preliminary design/cost estimate for the Operations and Maintenance facility at the Public Works location. It is estimated that it will take \$10,000,000 for the first phase of the facility. Chair Lowry noted that if "Connect Oregon" passes, then CTS can apply for that money.

Mr. Bates reported that this is the final week of service for the Beaver Bus for FY 10-11 and then it will be on summer break until September 29<sup>th</sup>. The C1 and the CVA routes will run until Friday and then resume after Labor Day.

Mr. Bates passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers to work the CTS booth at da Vinci Days. He confirmed that we will have a CTS bus at our booth again. Commissioner Hyne suggested that we put in the marketing materials that this bus will offer individuals using scooters and wheelchairs a good place to practice getting on and off a bus.

#### **VII. Commission Requests and Reports**

Commissioner Hyne reported on the subcommittee's progress. She mentioned that there were many different perspectives and at the last meeting, Transportation Supervisor Lisa Namba joined the discussion to discuss smaller adjustments to the system rather than major changes.

#### **VIII. Pending Items**

None.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Lowry adjourned the meeting at 9:16 am.**

**NEXT MEETING: July 13, 2011, 8:20 am, Madison Avenue Meeting Room**