

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT AGENDA

**Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 8:20 a.m.
Madison Avenue Meeting Room
500 SW Madison Avenue**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
[November 9, 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, January 11, 2012, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, February 8, 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
November 9, 2011**

Present

Stephan Friedt, Chair
Susan Hyne, Vice Chair
Mike Beilstein, Council Liaison
Robert Monasky
Robert E. Wilson

Staff

Tim Bates, Public Works
Brie Caffey, Public Works
Lisa Namba, Public Works

Absent

Evan Sorce
Brandon Trelstad
Ray Shimabuku
Kriste York

Visitors

Laurel Byer, Benton County Public Works
Roger Irvin, Benton County Public Works
Candice Ruud, Corvallis Gazette-Times

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of October 12, 2011 Minutes			Approved
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	N/A		
IV. Old Business	X		
V. New Business		X	
VI. Information Sharing	X		
VII. Commission Requests and Reports	X		
VIII. Pending Items	N/A		
IX. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:46 am

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Monasky and Vice Chair Hyne, respectively, moved and seconded to approve the October 12, 2011 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

None.

IV. Old Business

Mrs. Caffey presented the on-time performance charts for Routes 1 through 8 and C1, for October 2011. Mr. Bates mentioned that late runs on Saturday were most likely due to the OSU football game traffic delays. He noted that October, having had an all-time record number of rides, meant more frequent stops which effects on-time performance, overall. Vice Chair Hyne said that the 9th Street construction project continued well into October and would have also effected performance. Chair Friedt agreed that there is a combination of factors effecting performance.

Vice Chair Hyne said she felt Routes 5/6 appear to need attention. Ms. Namba said it is hard to know how much to read into this particular report due to the 9th Street construction issue which directly impacted those routes. Ms. Namba suggested staff repeat this report again in January, 2012, once construction season, football game detours, and holiday ridership variances are over. Vice Chair Hyne asked if adding an extra bus on the Route 5/6 might help break the afternoon lateness cycle. Ms. Namba said that may occasionally be an option but the City doesn't have the budget to add an extra bus on a regular basis. Ms. Namba noted that we haven't yet conducted a customer survey to find out which is more important to riders, frequency or on-time performance.

V. New Business

Benton County Engineer Laurel Byer gave a presentation on the County/City joint proposal for a roundabout at the intersection at SW West Hills Rd and 53rd St. She showed a video about the modern roundabout which explained that roundabouts reduce crashes by 40% and also save fuel. Ms. Byer said that a previous study of this specific intersection revealed that a roundabout could save approximately 30,000 gallons of fuel each year. She offered CACOT the opportunity to ask questions and air any concerns. She mentioned that buses can be allowed to test drive the roundabout during construction to ensure that they fit. Ms. Byer said the bus stop just south of the current intersection may need to be relocated to keep traffic flowing through the roundabout, or a pullout for the bus may need to be added to the design. Commissioners asked questions about bike lanes, costs, and lighting for the roundabout.

Commissioner Wilson asked about the success of other roundabouts in the area. Ms. Byer mentioned the roundabouts in Albany - on North Albany Rd at Gibson Hill Rd. and on Knox Butte Rd. at Timber Ridge St. Mrs. Caffey mentioned that the Albany Transit System buses use the roundabout on North Albany Rd. and it may be helpful to ask them about their experience with roundabout use.

Ms. Byer said that the next steps in the process is to go before the Corvallis City Council and Benton County Commissioners and she requested support of the project from CACOT. Chair Friedt said he would prefer to make such a decision when all of the Commissioners have had the chance to weigh in on the topic and discuss it. Ms. Byer said she would post a link to the video on the Benton County web site so that absent Commission members could view it. Chair Friedt said a decision on whether to support

the roundabout and any supporting letter from CACOT would be delivered to Ms. Byer no later than the end of this week.

VI. Information Sharing

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

Ms. Namba noted that while the information “road show” to various City clubs will include BETC information, it primarily focuses on the Transit Operations Fund fee adjustment which is due to occur in February. The monthly fee is expected to increase due to the increased cost of fuel, so staff will be going out into the community to remind everyone about the benefits gained by the fee.

Ms. Namba explained that BETC will be phasing out by 2014, with the final tax credits expiring in 2016. It will be replaced with the Energy Tax Credit Program. Unlike the BETC, the Energy Tax Credit Program will be open to mass transit districts, such as Tri-Met and Lane Transit District, and there will be only \$10 million worth of credits available. She explained that the cap will be limited to \$3 million per project, and will be limited to one project, per entity, per year. CTS’ project would consist of its operating budget of approximately \$2.5 million. Previously, any project over \$20 million required the partner to take the credit over 5 years; this new program allows them to take all of it, or any portion of the credit, all in one year which makes the program more attractive to partners. Ms. Namba said CTS has done everything to find a BETC partner except use a broker, as Albany Transit did. Staff has not ruled out that option.

Mr. Bates said the Holiday Trolley has traditionally started the day after Thanksgiving but this year it will be starting in December because some of its hours were used for trolley service provided to the Benton County Fair.

Vice Chair Hyne asked about Linn-Benton Loop ridership. Mr. Bates reported that Loop ridership is high. He said the City of Albany found a BETC partner and applied it to the Linn-Benton Loop’s funding for FY 2011-12, meaning the Loop’s budget will most likely not be in deficit at the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Beilstein asked if CACOT has ever looked at bringing transit operations in-house. Mr. Bates said a few years ago the state required the City to look at that idea and found it was cost prohibitive. He said the Public Works Director at the time, Steve Rogers, wrote a memo to Council outlining the findings and Mr. Bates offered to send a copy of the paper to Commissioner Beilstein. Mr. Bates reported that CTS is in the second year of a three-year contract with First Student which includes two additional one-year extension options. He said because First Student also manages the Corvallis School District busing contract, some of CTS’ operational overhead costs are shared with the school district, lowering CTS’ costs.

Mr. Bates reported that staff will soon take a trip to see the Rouge Valley Transit District’s (RVTD) VIS system. RVTD’s system is similar to CTS in size. He said they have had their VIS less than one year, so it will be educational to see their operations.

VII. Commission Requests and Reports

Chair Friedt requested that 99 Express ridership numbers to Adair Village and Monroe be included in the Information Sharing Report. Staff agreed to include these figures.

VIII. Pending Items

None.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Friedt adjourned the meeting at 9:46 am.

NEXT MEETING: December 14, 2011, 8:20 am, Madison Avenue Meeting Room