

Approved

April 14, 2010
by CACOT

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
March 10, 2010**

Present

Bob Lowry, Chair
Stephan Friedt, Vice-Chair
Susan Hyne
Tom Kincaid
Brandon Trelstad
Hal Brauner, Council Liaison

Staff

Lisa Namba, Public Works
Tim Bates, Public Works
Cindy Hallett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works
Mary Steckel, Public Works
Becky Merja, Parks & Recreation
Jackie Rochefort, Parks & Recreation

Absent

Paul Aljets, ASOSU
Ray Shimabuku
Robert E. Wilson

Visitors

John Oliver
Stewart Wershow

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of January 13, 2010 Minutes			Approved.
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	N/A		
IV. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possible Park & Ride Locations• Possible Satellite Transit Centers		X X	
V. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainability Initiative Fee Presentation			Supported all proposed initiatives in ranked order.
VI. Information Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written Report	X		
VII. Commission Requests and Reports	N/A		
VIII. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:58a.m.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. The meeting was called to order at 8:22 a.m. Introductions of Commission members, staff and visitors were made.

II. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Friedt and Commissioner Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded to approve the January 13, 2010, minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

None.

IV. Old Business

Possible Park & Ride Locations - Mr. Bates spoke with the property manager at Sunset Center at 53rd Street and Philomath Boulevard. At this time Sunset Center management is not ready to commit to a designated Park & Ride on its property.

Possible Satellite Transit Centers in Corvallis - Suggestions for possible locations included Timberhill Shopping Center, Samaritan Hospital, and 9th Street at Madison Avenue.

Vice-Chair Friedt and Commissioner Kincaid, respectively, moved and seconded to keep the possible Park & Ride Locations and Satellite Transit Centers as Old Business until it has been resolved. The motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

Sustainability Initiatives Funding (SIF) -

Steve Rogers, Corvallis Public Works Director, reviewed the Sustainability Initiatives Funding (SIF) Briefing Paper and public outreach process, and solicited the Commission's input on the proposed initiatives. There has been outreach to stakeholders, including selected advisory commissions to the City Council, and to the general community through *the City* newsletter. Members of the community can convey input via handwritten form, email, phone, and an online survey. At its April 21st meeting the Administrative Services Committee (ASC) will receive input on the SIF, then deliberate at the May 5th meeting before making recommendations to the City Council at their May 17th meeting. CACOT members were encouraged to attend the April 21st ASC meeting if they are interested in providing direct input to the Committee. Mr. Rogers explained the basis for each proposed fee and indicated he was looking for two things from CACOT: 1) whether or not they support the proposals and associated fees as a group; and 2) a prioritized ranking of the proposals. He noted that all five fees could be implemented simultaneously or in phases. Highlights from the discussion that followed:

- The transit portion of the fee would cover both the current property tax allocation to transit from the General Fund and revenue from fares, making the system fareless. Approval of this fee would provide some relief to pressure on the General Fund, which also provides funding for the Library, Parks and Recreation, Police, Fire, and

Community Development Departments. An additional proposal would provide for expansion to transit services.

- In a fareless system, complementary paratransit rides would be free for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) certified riders. Staff considered the cost for recapturing lost paratransit fare revenue in establishing the fee level.
- Councilor Brauner will present a proposal to the ASC that would tie the transit fee to the average price of a gallon of gasoline. As fuel prices rise and fall, the fee would be adjusted annually or semi-annually, though the fee would have a “floor.”
- The transit fee would be fixed for residential users and prorated for businesses, based on trips generated by the commercial property. Any property, including non-profits like churches, that currently pays for City utility services would pay the fee.
- Oregon State University would be handled differently. OSU’s forests and sidewalks would continue to be maintained by OSU. Between now and April 21st, the City Manager, Mr. Rogers, OSU’s Vice President of Finance, and OSU’s Facilities Director will meet to talk about current and future transit system services, and how to allocate SIF costs to OSU.
- A Commissioner expressed concern about capacity and on-time performance issues in a fareless system. Mr. Roger stated that currently, the average rides per bus hour is 27, so additional passenger capacity is available.
- Mary Steckel, Public Works Administrative Division Manager, requested the Commission help spread the word by talking to others in the community, not necessarily in an advocacy role but as information providers.
- Visitor Stewart Wershow said he considers the transit portion of the fee as the most important because it is the only one that, if passed, would provide relief to the General Fund. He reiterated an earlier comment that if General Fund revenues were no longer needed by the Transit Fund, this would lessen cuts to Police and Fire.
- Becky Merja, the City’s Urban Forester, stated that thousands of new street trees have been added with new streets, and these trees need structural pruning to avoid becoming hazards. Other mature trees have been inventoried as hazards. Maintenance of sidewalks and trees are currently the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. The urban forestry portion of the fee would include a pruning cycle for trees in public rights-of-way, providing overhead clearance and mitigating hazards.
- Vice-Chair Friedt said he preferred that the individual fees would be broken out on the utility bill and that the base transit fee and expansion fee should be shown as one fee.

The Commission unanimously voted to support all of the initiatives, and ranked them in priority order: 1) Transit and Additional Transit Services; 2) Energy Conservation/Renewable Energy Projects; tied for 3) Alternative Transportation Modes and Urban Forestry Program; 5) Sidewalk Safety Program. Number one represents CACOT’s highest priority and number five the lowest.

VI. Information Sharing

Mr. Bates reviewed the Information Sharing Report. Additional information to the report:

- There will be two spare buses at peak service after new buses arrive.
- Benton County is getting community input for the new Monroe/Adair Village/Benton County/Corvallis transit service, expected to begin in August.

VII. Commission Requests and Reports

- Vice-Chair Friedt requested from staff a copy of the current operations and maintenance contract with First Student. Mr. Bates will forward a copy to him.

VII. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Friedt and Commissioner Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 14, 2010, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room