

APPROVED

by CACOT on 10/13/10

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
September 8, 2010**

Present

Stephan Friedt, Vice-Chair
Susan Hyne
Ray Shimabuku
Robert E. Wilson
Hal Brauner, City Council Liaison

Staff

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

Visitors

Sharon Fipps, Public Works

Absent

Bob Lowry, Chair
ASOSU Representative - Vacant
Brandon Trelstad
Tom Kincaid

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of July 14, 2010 Minutes			Approved
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	X		
IV. Old Business			Councilor Wilson requested a status of the DTC restroom project.
V. New Business	NA		
VI. Information Sharing • Written Report	X		
VII. Commission Requests and Reports	NA		
VIII. Pending Items	NA		
IX. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:20 am

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:24 a.m.

Ms. Namba introduced Brie Caffey as the new Transit Senior Administrative Specialist.

II. Approval of July 14, 2010 Minutes
Commissioners Shimabuku and Hyne, respectively, moved and seconded approval of the July 14, 2010 minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

Sharon Fipps, Special Transportation Coordinator for Benton County - Ms. Fipps presented information about the new Benton County 99 Express bus service, expected to begin October 1, 2010. Three routes will be offered: Corvallis to Adair Village (five days per week); Corvallis to Monroe (five days per week); and Monroe to Junction City (two days per week). Ms. Fipps has requested the installation of two 99 Express bus stops just outside of the Downtown Transit Center (DTC). Proposed DTC stops include the conversion of a 5th street parking space just south of the DTC and an unused space on the south side of Monroe between 5th and 6th Streets. Ms. Fipps reported widespread community interest in these routes. The Adair Village route will service 9th Street, utilizing existing CTS stops. A small 99 Express sticker will be placed on the existing CTS bus stop signs. The cities of Monroe and Adair Village have purchased and installed bus shelters, and a shelter may be installed at the Corvallis Airport, as demand requires.

A seniors and persons with disabilities grant will fund the 99 Express and the service will be a deviated fixed-route system. If a senior or person with a disability lives too far from a fixed-route stop and calls 24 hours in advance, the service will pick up the customer at his/her home. The schedule allows for only two deviations per run. Call-in deviations won't be accommodated within Corvallis, but fixed deviations will be offered to the Benton County Health Department, Chintimini Senior Center, DMV, Boys & Girls Club, Carmike Cinemas and the Timberhill Shopping Center. The last two deviations listed were specifically requested by the City of Monroe. Free transfers from CTS to Express 99 and vice versa will be offered for a six month trial period. Transfers, and most other aspects of this new service, will be re-evaluated in six months. One-way, adult fares from Corvallis will be \$1.00 to Monroe, \$0.75 to the Corvallis Airport, \$0.75 to Adair Village, and \$0.75 from Monroe to Junction City.

Schedules align so that riders from Adair Village may connect and continue on to the Corvallis Airport. Commissioner Wilson asked about funding duration, recurring costs, and GPS technology. Ms. Fipps reported that the service is funded through June 30, 2011, at which time staff will write another grant, hopefully allowing the service to continue. Benton County just took receipt of one new bus and will recondition a Dial-A-Bus van for this service. Actual operations costs are still pending but are estimated at \$60,000 - \$67,000 for the first 10 months of service. Costs of the service may be offset by a decrease in demand-response transportation for seniors and disabled riders. GPS devices have not been purchased but are a consideration and may be especially helpful when deviating from fixed routes.

Commissioner Hyne asked if CTS group passes will be accepted on the 99 Express. Ms. Fipps reported that CTS group passes will not be accepted as fares on 99 Express at this time but the idea is under consideration. The Benton County Public Works office will sell

monthly passes and 20-ride coupon books. Ms. Fipps thanked City staff Jim Mitchell, Lisa Namba, Tim Bates and Cindy Hallett for their help in designing the service. Councilor Brauner suggested tracking the Corvallis resident ridership. If CTS becomes a fareless system and 99 Express continues to require fares, the City may consider subsidizing the program at a percentage commensurate with Corvallis ridership.

Commissioner Hyne asked if information about this program will be on the CTS web site. Ms. Fipps confirmed that it is on the City web site and also gave an additional web site which contains more information: www.bc99express.com.

Commissioner Friedt asked about priority boarding, bus capacities and coordination with Lane Transit District. Ms. Fipps stated that while the service is open to the general public, funding dictates that seniors and persons with disabilities be priority riders. The new bus carries 20 passengers, with two wheelchair spaces; the refurbished van holds 12 passengers, with two wheelchair spaces. Staff would like to eventually purchase one additional 20-passenger bus. Ms. Fipps also confirmed that the Junction City route was designed to coordinate with Lane County Transit. Commissioner Friedt suggested that the monthly passes and coupon books be sold from the Corvallis City Hall. Ms. Fipps noted that City Hall may be a possibility since the Linn-Benton Loop passes are currently sold there. The passes and books are also available for sale at two locations each in Adair Village and Monroe.

Ms. Fipps reported that the three days per week Coast to Valley service uses a separate vehicle and will not be negatively affected by this service. Benton County is partnering with Columbia, Clatsop, Tillamook, and Lincoln Counties on a \$3.46 million dollar grant to connect all of those counties by public transportation, with the goal of connecting them seven days per week. The Coast to Valley service is expected to grow with that grant to a seven days per week service but funding is still about one and one-half years away. Councilor Brauner asked about connecting Lebanon to Corvallis. Ms. Fipps reported that this grant will allow the Coast to Valley service to service the Albany Transit Center, with connections opportunities to Lebanon. Commissioner Hyne said she applauds Benton County's efforts, and made the suggestion that they consider including Google Transit in their plans.

IV. Old Business

Commissioner Wilson asked about the status of DTC restroom project. Mr. Bates reported that the project has been approved by City Council. Staff is currently discussing how to convert the building, i.e. whether to have the work done in-house by the City's Buildings and Grounds Department or by a contractor. Staff will provide a more detailed update at the October meeting.

V. New Business

There was none.

VI. Information Sharing

Councilor Brauner reported that after several postponements, the recommendations on Sustainability Initiative Fund fees are scheduled for the October 4th Council meeting. There is a budget work session scheduled for September which will provide Council information to be used in deciding these issues.

Councilor Brauner reported that Council authorized a citizen poll about future revenue sources. Council is currently researching prospective firms.

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

- Staff spoke with the ASOSU President about ASOSU's seat on the Commission and the difficulty of getting the ASOSU representative to regularly attend CACOT's meetings due to school schedules, etc. Staff suggested ASOSU consider a proxy seat option. However, this could result in an disjointed presentation of ASOSU's viewpoint. Commissioner Hyne suggested the possibility of a pool of three people. Commissioner Friedt suggested the issue may simply be that of communication. Staff also suggested to ASOSU the possibility of voluntarily relinquishing its seat on the Commission but noted that OSU students represent approximately 40% of CTS ridership.
- Staff reminded CTS drivers how to work with students who say they do not have Corvallis School District ID's to present at the time of boarding. No students have yet been denied rides but policy states that high school students are required to produce a school ID.
- Staff will attend the OSU Graduate Student Fair on September 14th.
- Staff will attend a new event, the LBCC Student Welcome Day, on September 15th.

Commissioner Hyne suggested that staff ensure that coordinators of the World Car Free Day event know that CTS is now live on Google Transit.

VII. Commission Requests and Reports

There were no requests or reports.

VIII. Pending Items

There were none.

IX. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 13, 2010, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room