

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
May 13, 2009**

Present

Bob Lowry, Chair
Tad Abernathy
Susan Hyne
Tom Kincaid
Robert E. Wilson
Hal Brauner, City Councilor

Staff

Lisa Namba, Public Works
Tim Bates, Public Works
Cindy Hallett, Public Works

Visitors

Charlie Tomlinson, Mayor
Cody Abernathy

Absent

Stephan Friedt, Vice-Chair
Heather Bennett
Brandon Trelstad

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of April 8, 2009 Minutes			Approved as corrected.
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments • Mayor Tomlinson	X		
IV. Old Business • None			
V. New Business • Siting Bike Lockers at Downtown Transit Center		X	
VI. Information Sharing • Written Report	X		
VII. Commission Requests and Reports • Nelson-Nygaard report			Requested staff furnish report.
VIII. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. The meeting was called to order at 8:20a.m. Introductions of Commission members, staff, and visitors were made.

II. Approval of Minutes

Hal Brauner was inadvertently omitted from the list of persons present at the April 8, 2009, meeting. Commissioner Wilson and Abernathy, respectively, moved and seconded the Commission approve the April 8, 2009, minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

As May is "Volunteer Month," Mayor Tomlinson visited to express his appreciation for the volunteer efforts of the Commissioners. He noted that Councilor Hal Brauner is liaison to most transportation-related boards and commissions the Council is involved in, and does a great job representing the City's interests. Mayor Tomlinson said "whatever we can do to get people onto transit is worth considering."

Councilor Hal Brauner stated that the City Council has been discussing the Sustainability Coalition recommendations and have narrowed their focus to energy and transportation. Councilor Brauner is championing a fareless transit system at Council level. This will require an alternative revenue source and he will recommend referring the discussion to the Administrative Services Committee. Councilor Brauner will be seeking input from CACOT on where routes, frequency and hours might need to be added as the discussion proceeds. Commissioner Wilson expressed concern over whether this would affect paratransit (Dial-A-Bus) fares, since they are linked to the fixed-route fares. He also spoke of the need for a CTS maintenance facility. Councilor Brauner said the Council recognizes the need for the facility and has explored grant opportunities and potential partnerships with the school district. He noted that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act may be a prime funding source for this project.

Councilor Brauner noted that in addition to CACOT, he serves on several other transportation committees: the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Policy Board; Van Buren Street Bridge stakeholder group; 9th Street Improvement Project Advisory Committee; Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation; and Linn-Benton Loop Commission. This allows him to have a single voice for the City across a range of transportation discussions.

Chair Lowry informed CACOT that although ODOT's Public Transit Division (PTD) had released a written recommendation to the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC) awarding approximately \$328,000 in Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) funds to Corvallis for the 09-11 biennium, that recommendation was withdrawn at the PTAC meeting held Monday, May 11th. PTD staff will be re-reviewing the JARC allocations to the three small urbanized areas (Corvallis, Bend, and Rogue Valley). Ms. Namba indicated that staff was aware of this, and said she has already written Public Transit Division Administrator Michael Ward expressing interest in the process that will be used

to make the final allocations.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

Siting Four (4) Bike Lockers at the Downtown Transit Center (DTC) - Ms. Namba distributed a drawing showing possible locations for four bike lockers at the DTC. The concept of the bike lockers is pay-as-you-go, where a bike could be stored for an hour or day via coin operation. Collection of fees would be entering new territory. Chair Lowry is concerned about how pedestrian flow would be affected if the lockers were placed on Monroe Avenue near the Linn-Benton Loop shelter. Commissioner Wilson suggested locating the lockers in one of the parking spaces proposed for the old Moose building. In response to a question from Councilor Brauner, Ms. Namba stated the Moose lodge project is not proposed to have bike parking on that property. Councilor Brauner wants to be sure there is good pedestrian flow from the DTC to the parking lot to the proposed restroom. Ms. Namba stated that just yesterday, staff learned that the concessionaire will vacate the corner building on June 6, 2009. This presents an opportunity to potentially site the restroom in that building.

Commissioner Hyne stated that combining bus and bike is challenging because the bus can accommodate only two bikes, so it would be difficult to quickly lock a bike and catch the bus on time. She wondered about the likelihood of the lockers becoming homeless shelters. Chair Lowry would like to hold off installation of the bike lockers until after the Moose lodge demolition and construction is completed, and limit the amount of landscape removal and pedestrian disruption. After further discussion, Chair Lowry suggested, since there is no quorum (Commissioner Abernathy had left), to carry over this topic to the next meeting. The lockers will not arrive until the end of June with installation in the fall. Another batch of lockers could potentially go on 1st Street near the informal Valley Vanpool site.

Chair Lowry would like to see CACOT work on the concept of establishing other transit centers where two buses could stop and dwell. Ms. Namba stated staff had submitted a list of high priority items (also known as earmarks) to our Congressional representatives, and satellite transit centers did not make the list, although they were considered.

VI. Information Sharing

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

- **Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)** - An update on this grant application was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.
- **New Buses** - Two buses will arrive May 25, 2009. Gillig bus company will send a field representative to inspect the buses and Luminator will send an installer to install the VIS units.
- **Beaver Bus** - There will be a Beaver Bus get-together celebration on May 11th in the

Memorial Union Quad.

Follow-up issues:

- **Letter of Support** - CACOT provided a letter of support on favor of the City of Albany's JARC application to operate the new Lebanon Loop service. What was requested and what was awarded were different and Mr. Bates questioned Chair Lowry about this. Chair Lowry indicated he'll need to review.
- **City Attorney's approval of AR 09-01** - The next step will be to introduce an Administrative Policy for wheelchair securement. The ADA mandates the term 'mobility device' be replaced with 'wheelchair'. Chair Lowry suggested that transit agencies should be pushing manufacturers to have a uniform design for securement hooks.
- **CTS 2008-09 Budget Expenditures and Revenue** - The pie charts provided to the Commission do not include reimbursement revenue from Philomath and Benton County STF and large capital purchases are excluded from expenditures. In response to questions from Commissioner Wilson, there was discussion about expenses from extra mileage caused by the current location of the First Student facility.

VII. Commission Requests and Reports

Commissioner Hyne noted that three items discussed at the meeting could impact service: JARC funding, the potential for a fareless system, and we may get energy savings if Transit Investment in Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) projects are funded. She suggested that the Commission start thinking about these things and seeking a strategy for responding to these scenarios. Commissioner Wilson said that one approach is to budget for and hire a consultant to examine the options and suggest strategies. Chair Lowry said that the information produced from consultant Nelson-Nygaard seven or so years ago may still be useful. Staff agreed to locate the report.

VIII. Adjournment

Since there was no quorum, Chair Lowry adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45a.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 17, 2009, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room