

Approved

by CACOT
October 14, 2009

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
September 9, 2009**

Present

Bob Lowry, Chair
Stephan Friedt, Vice-Chair
Paul Aljets
Susan Hyne
Brandon Trelstad
Ray Shimabuku
Robert E. Wilson
Hal Brauner, Council Liaison

Absent

Tom Kincaid

Staff

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

Visitors

Brian Paul
Linda Easter
Greg Enstrom
Bob Greenwade
Jim Whitehead
Morton Whitney
Bruce Black

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of August 12, 2009 Minutes			Approved.
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	X		
IV. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Date Change for the November 11th Meeting			November meeting date changed to November 12, 2009.
V. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Route Revision Public Meeting			Approved the following: Elimination Route C4; Reduction in C3 service; Addition of service to Routes 1, 3, 8, and C1; Addition of one Route C2 midday run; Addition of one Route 5 thirty-minute run Monday-Friday; Change of Route 7 of DTC departure to h:30.
VI. Information Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none">Written Report	X		
VII. Commission Requests and Reports	N/A		
VIII. Adjournment			Adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. The meeting was called to order at 8:23 a.m. Introductions of Commission members, staff, and visitors were made.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioners Trelstad and Hyne, respectively, moved and seconded to approve the August 12, 2009 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

- Visitors comments were taken during the “New Business” item.

IV. Old Business

- Date for the November meeting was rescheduled to November 12, 2009.

V. New Business

- **Route Revision Public Meeting** - Mr. Bates gave an overview of the staff report and recommendations for the proposed route revisions.

Staff recommendations for service reductions include:

- Elimination of Route C4 due to very low ridership.
- Route C3 - Elimination of service south of Philomath Boulevard due to very low ridership.

Staff recommendations for additions include:

- Route 3- Monday through Friday service to end at the Downtown Transit Center (DTC), instead of Technology Loop at 49th Street. Staff has received requests from riders for this change.
- Route 8 - Saturday service to end at the Downtown Transit Center (DTC), instead of 35th and Birdie. Staff has received requests from riders for this change.
- Route 1 - Monday through Saturday service to end on eastbound Walnut Boulevard at 9th Street, instead of Walnut Boulevard at Rolling Green Drive. Staff has received requests from riders for this change.

Staff is seeking the Commission’s direction on where to place the remaining service hours. The Commission was asked to consider one of following three options:

- Route 5 - Monday through Friday, add an additional 7:15 p.m. run to increase 30-minute service until 7:45 p.m.
- Route C2 - Add two 15-minute midday runs to accommodate OSU students commuting from OSU campus to Hewlett Packard (HP) building #10/11.
- Routes C2 and C3 - Add one additional midday run, based on the revised C3 30-minute service.

Brian Paul, an Oregon State University professor who works at HP’s southernmost

building, requested an increase in service on Route C2 to include midday runs. OSU has ten Pacific Lab employees and 85 OSU staff and students currently at the HP site. OSU has occupied this space for the last five years and is now in a build-out of 40,000 square feet to be completed March, 2010. Graduate students would particularly benefit from the midday service because although the am/pm runs are good for staff, students need transportation to/from OSU and HP midday.

Visitor Bruce Black stated that he rides Route 3 or 8 to get to "Fitness Over 50" on SW 53rd Street and Philomath Boulevard. The business will close down and open a new center at intersection of SW Philomath Boulevard and Country Club Drive, which is a mile farther from the current stop. The move will happen in the spring of 2010. He asked CACOT to consider providing service to the new location.

Greg Enstrom, of the USDA Forest Service on Research Way, said the problem with Route C3 service is the schedule, especially with the afternoon hours starting so late. Traffic starts clearing out of all businesses at 4:30 p.m. It does not make sense to change a schedule due to lack of ridership when the schedule is not set up to best accommodate the users. Most cities have bidirectional service. The morning schedule works well but the afternoon schedule needs to be moved up to 4:15 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. Mr. Bates stated that he spoke to businesses on SW Research Way and discovered that most employees were using Routes 3 and 8. Mr. Enstrom said he has not tried Route 3 or 8.

Visitor Linda Easter requested service to Waldorf School on Highway 20 at NE Conifer Boulevard. Chair Lowry explained that this area is outside Corvallis city limits. Ms. Easter also stated there are no bike racks or places to lock bikes at bus stops. With space for only two bikes on buses, riders need to leave their bikes at the stop to take the bus. When asked for specific locations where bike hoops (racks) should be placed, Ms. Easter did not have specific suggestions.

Visitor Bob Greenwade is a care giver for a woman who lives at Camas Commons on SW 53rd Street at Country Club Drive. He said the reduction of service made in 2008, along SW 53rd Street between Harrison Blvd. and County Club Drive, has negatively affected those dependent on using the bus for transportation. He would like to add midday service to Route C3 to allow riders to shop or to be in town for only a half day, instead of a full day. Mr. Greenwade suggested bike lockers/racks/hoops be located close to bus stops located at Good Samaritan Hospital, SE Bethel and Lilly, SW 53rd and Country Club Drive, and at the Timberhill Shopping Center.

Visitor Morton Whitney stated that he has a hearing problem and suggested the City provide an amplified sound system to assist people who attend CACOT meetings and do not hear well. Mr. Whitney said he was concerned with the proposed reduction in service to Route 4. Staff explained to Mr. Whitney that the proposed service reduction was to Route C4, not Route 4.

Visitor Jim Whitehead said it is important that bike racks/hoops are sturdy and the bolt securement to the concrete can not be undone. Mr. Whitehead appreciates the service changes made in 2008 which extended later hours. Mr. Whitehead would like more bike

lockers at the DTC and storage lockers for backpacks.

Routes 1 and 7

- Mr. Bates distributed a schedule comparison of Routes 1 and 7 time points, with different scenarios for arrival times to Timberhill, HP and Good Samaritan Hospital based on changing the departure time from the DTC. Commissioner Hyne clarified that the bus which would be moved to the h:30 would depart each run at h:30, and not depart 10 minutes later beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners Wilson and Hyne, respectively, moved and seconded, to accept staff recommendations. Vice-Chair Friedt made a friendly amendment to the motion to review and vote on each recommendation separately. Commissioners Wilson and Hyne agreed to the amendment.

- Elimination of Route C4 - **Motion passed unanimously.**
- Route C3 - eliminate service south of SW Philomath Boulevard. Vice-Chair Friedt asked staff for ridership data. Mr. Bates stated the majority riders are using the service to go between Grand Oaks and the DTC and only one person occasionally uses the service south of SW Philomath Boulevard. Routes 3 and 8 also serve areas near SW Research Way, one area that will would lose C3 service with this change. Commissioner Hyne would like to add stops on Philomath Boulevard east of 53rd Street with one possibly being a shelter. Staff has already identified two stops on Philomath Blvd. between 53rd St. and Technology Loop. **The motion passed 6 to 0, with 1 abstention.**
- Route 1 - Extend service to end on Walnut Boulevard at 9th Street. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- Route 3 - Extend service to end Monday through Friday at the DTC. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- Route 8 -Extend service to end Saturdays at the DTC. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion on the use of remaining service hours:

- Route 5- Commissioner Hyne said all options are worthy. Vice-Chair Friedt does not consider an additional Route 5 run to be the most important of the three options. Mr. Bates explained that this option will gain the most ridership.
- Route C2 - Staff commented that this service may be perceived by some as an OSU shuttle. Commissioner Wilson stated OSU is a significant contributor to the Transit Fund and consideration of increased service to OSU is appropriate. Vice-Chair Friedt sees the importance of midday runs and the significance OSU's HP build out will have on ridership from OSU. Commissioner Trelstad asked if there has been conversation with OSU's School of Engineering to cost share the additional run(s) on C2. Mr. Bates has had contact with OSU and there was no offer to cost share. Commissioner Hyne asked about ridership on the C2. Mr. Bates reported ridership of 1,190 rides in an 11-month period of time. Commissioner Wilson said it might be best to wait until

January when OSU has completed the build out.

- Add Route C2 and C3 Monday-Friday, mid-day service - Commissioner Hyne said there needs to be a midday run for C3. Mr. Mitchell recounted a City Council discussion during the 2008 route revisions where Councilors discussed the need to sometimes prioritize transit as a social service over gaining productivity.

Commissioner Wilson said there is a motion on the table to adopt staff's recommendation of an additional Route 5 run Monday - Saturday - Vice-Chair Friedt asked staff if changes or additions to service make a difference in how state and federal funding is garnered. Ms. Namba stated the Federal Transit Administration and ODOT do evaluate the service design as a basis for funding. Commissioner Hyne proposed that the Route 5's additional run on Saturday could be exchanged for one Route C2, Monday through Friday midday run. The C2 runs would take 50 minutes per week versus 30 minutes for the Route 5 Saturday run. Vice-Chair Friedt and Commissioner Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the additional hours be used for one additional Route 5 Monday-Friday run and one additional midday Route C2 run Monday - Friday, if staff determines this is within budget constraints. If staff determines this is not feasible, the motion calls for the addition of one additional Monday - Saturday Route 5 run. The motion passed unanimously.

(After the meeting, staff determined the budget will allow for one additional Route 5 Monday - Friday run and one additional Route C2 midday run Monday - Friday).

Commissioner Aljets left the meeting and was not present to vote on the following item.

- Changing of schedule on Routes 1 or 7. Staff had no recommendation on moving either Route 1 or Route 7 to a h:30 departure time from the DTC. **Commissioner Hyne and Vice-Chair Friedt, respectively, moved and seconded that Route 7 change its departure time from the DTC to h:30.** Discussion ensued. The motion was clarified that it includes Monday through Saturday with Monday through Friday's first departure at 6:30 a.m. and last departure at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Hyne stated changing the service would provide 30-minute service to the hospital complex. Vice-Friedt said he has championed this change for two years. This gives enhancements as noted and provides 15-minute bidirectional service on Monroe Avenue. Commissioner Trelstad opposes the change due to the possible negative impact to OSU students. Chair Lowry opposes the motion because the Route 1 and 7 departure times from the DTC were moved to h:10 beginning at 4:00 p.m. to accommodate commuters, and this change would negate that move. Commissioner Trelstad is concerned about those who have rigid 8:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m. schedules. Chair Lowry opined that this change is hoping for prospective ridership instead of considering proven ridership. Drivers and riders have made many comments to staff requesting the change. Councilor Brauner stated that he has received comments from citizens about buses following each other throughout portions of the route and that the City is not spending transit money wisely. He said with the hospital area becoming a more significant employer, it makes sense to change Route 7. The change of Route 7 would give half-hour service on the north portion of 9th Street. **The motion to change Route 7's departure time from the DTC to h:30 passed by a vote of 3 to 2, with 1 abstention.**

VI. Information Sharing

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

- Google Transit - Commissioner Hyne applauded the volunteer work of Robert Monasaky for his programming the data and information that will allow CTS to eventually post its routes and schedules on Google Transit. Commissioner Trelstad expressed concerns about maintenance of the system once Mr. Monasaky has completed the programming and updates. Ms. Namba reported that Mr. Monasaky has agreed to provide a manual, training, and his expertise to assist with the service, whether his time would be volunteered or paid. Commissioner Wilson would like those services to become a line item in the transit budget.

VII. Commission Requests and Reports

- None.

VII. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 14, 2009, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room