

DRAFTSubject to review &
approval

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
October 14, 2009**

Present

Bob Lowry, Chair
Susan Hyne
Ray Shimabuku
Brandon Trelstad
Hal Brauner, City Councilor

Staff

Tim Bates, Public Works

Visitors

Kate Welter, ASOSU

Absent

Stephan Friedt, Vice-Chair
Paul Aljets, ASOSU
Tom Kincaid
Robert E. Wilson

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

| Agenda Item | Information Only | Held for Further Review | Recommendations |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|---|
| I. Introductions | X | | |
| II. Approval of September 9, 2009 Minutes | | | Approved |
| III. CACOT/Visitor Comments | N/A | | |
| IV. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None | N/A | | |
| V. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-Year Review of the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Policy on CTS • Solar Powered Bus Shelters • Recently-Adopted Route Revisions | X X | | Approved PCA policy |
| VI. Information Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Report • Cold Weather Shelter Transit Ride Service | X | | Approved free transit rides to/from shelter |
| VI. Commission Requests and Reports | X | | |
| VII. Adjournment | | | Adjourned at 9:27 a.m. |

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m.

II. Approval of September 9, 2009 Minutes

Commissioners Hyne and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded the Commission approve the September 9, 2009, minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

Chair Lowry said the Linn-Benton Loop will undergo some long-range planning in the near future. He stated he would keep CACOT apprised of any developments. Councilor Brauner pointed out the Loop is well represented by CACOT, as Mr. Bates, Commissioner Trelstad, Chair Lowry, and Councilor Brauner are members of the Loop's Commission.

IV. Old Business

- None.

V. New Business

- **One-Year Review of the Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Policy on CTS** - Mr. Bates reviewed the staff report. Staff recommended CACOT approve this policy to permit Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) to ride for free when accompanying passengers whose disabilities require the use of a PCA to ride CTS. Commissioner Shimabuku asked how a person is verified to be a PCA. Mr. Bates explained CTS drivers take the word of a person who identifies himself/herself as a PCA. Commissioner Shimabuku said he is very supportive of the policy because it has helped open many opportunities to his clients.

Commissioners Shimabuku and Hyne, respectively, moved and seconded the Commission approve the policy to permit Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) to ride for free when accompanying passengers whose disabilities require the use of a PCA to ride CTS. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Solar Powered Bus Shelters** - Mr. Bates stated that Mayor Tomlinson received a call from ODOT regarding a pilot program in Miami, Florida. The Florida company sells illuminated advertising in bus shelters. Mr. Bates has not yet been able to converse with ODOT regarding the program. He asked the Commission if there is interest in pursuing this further. Councilor Brauner stated it is well worth exploring. There is a sign ordinance which states, in part, that advertising is not allowed on public right-of-ways (ROW). Bus shelters are in the ROW's, so there would be issues to work through if this concept were to move forward. Commissioner Hyne said she does not support ads in the shelters. Chair Lowry asked what the costs would be to have solar

illumination at the shelters without the advertising. Mr. Bates said he would report to CACOT at November's meeting the content of his planned conversation with ODOT.

- **Recently-Adopted Route Revisions** - Mr. Bates reported the Route C2 midday run has averaged one rider per run. Based on a conversation with OSU Professor Brian Paul, ridership should increase in January, 2010 when OSU will see an influx of additional students at its HP facility. The Route 5 additional run is seeing healthy ridership totals. The Route 7 change to a h:30 departure from the DTC was not a smooth transition for some regular riders who said they were not aware of the change. The nature of complaints were that the new schedule does not work for them. Some riders stated they are taking another route, have changed their work schedules, or stopped using the bus altogether. Staff placed paid ads in the newspaper, signs in buses and shelters, and information on the CTS website in an effort to inform the community of the pending change. Route 7 ridership is down 25% compared to September, 2008. However, it was pointed out that ridership overall is down 7%. Route CVA is averaging 60 rides per week, with a couple riders regularly using the Park & Ride.

VI. Information Sharing

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

- Free rides will be provided on CTS and Beaver Bus on Saturday, October 31st. Corvallis Police Department is expecting more people out due to Halloween and the OSU Homecoming game. The free rides are to encourage people to leave their cars at home.
- Cold Weather Shelter Program - The Men's Cold Weather Shelter Ride Program will run from November 15th, 2009 through March 16th, 2010. Participants may board Monday through Friday on the last Route 3 run from the Downtown Transit Center (DTC) and the first Route 3 run at 7:00 a.m. from the shelter on West Hills Road. Participants will be required to display a special bus pass and there will be monitors waiting with the participants at the DTC. This year there will also be a Women's Cold Weather Shelter on 35th Street and Knollbrook Avenue. A maximum of 10 women will use this shelter and participants will ride the last Route 8 run at 6:15 p.m. from the DTC and the first Route 8 run at 7:25 a.m. from the shelter.

The Commission expressed its unanimous support for this program.

- **Route Revisions** - Mr. Bates reviewed the new CTS Map and Schedule. Chair Lowry suggested the picture on the front page be changed to display a rider boarding the bus.
- **Try Transit Week** - Commissioner Hyne asked if there was a significant increase in ridership for the week. Councilor Brauner stated the figures would be useful as a reference. Staff agreed to provide the ridership figures at the November Commission meeting.
- **Energy Strategy Task Force** - Councilor Brauner sits on the Mayor's Energy Strategy Task Force and has been tasked with finding a way to create a realistic marketing matrix that would show current ridership totals and trends which could be measured against future ridership totals and trends. The matrix would also attempt to

predict the increase in ridership if there were an increase in advertising, addition of more routes, an increase in the frequency of routes, or a fareless system. Councilor Brauner stated for the record that would like to propose a fareless system that includes more routes. Commissioner Hyne wondered if on-time performance would be effected by a fareless system. Councilor Brauner said he is open to suggestions from the Commission on the marketing matrix and on the concept of a fareless system. It comes down to a funding issue, as a fareless system would result in lost farebox and group pass program revenue.

- **Satellite Transit Center** - Chair Lowry reiterated his desire to consider a satellite transit center (designated transfer point) on the north side of Corvallis which could also include the Linn Benton Loop and Park & Ride facilities.
- **O&M Facility Center** - Lisa Namba and Jim Mitchell recently met with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to discuss the City's proposed Operations & Maintenance facility. Their aim was to convince the FTA that the grant monies still available could be used for site selection and environmental studies that examined partnering with other entities. The meeting was successful as the FTA agreed that the concept presented by Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Namba was an acceptable use of the grant funds. Chair Lowry suggested staff look at Connect Oregon III in an effort to acquire funds associated with building the facility.

VII. Commission Requests and Reports

- Staff was requested to provide quarterly on-time performance data for each route.
- Commissioners Hyne and Trelstad requested ridership and on-time performance data from Try Transit Week.

VIII. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 12, 2009, 8:20 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room