

**APPROVED**

April 9, 2008  
by CACOT

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
MINUTES  
March 12, 2008**

**Present**

Bob Lowry, Chair  
Lita Verts, Vice-Chair  
Stephan Friedt

**Staff**

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

**Absent**

Scott Carroll  
Brandon Trelstad  
Robert E. Wilson  
Rick Crawford, ASOSU  
George Grosch, City Councilor

**Visitors**

Anne Schuster, Corvallis Sustainability  
Coalition

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Information Only</b>	<b>Held for Further Review</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of February 13, 2008 minutes			No quorum.
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	X		
IV. Old Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Route Revision Subcommittee Update</li></ul>	X		
V. New Business None			N/A
VI. Information Sharing	X		
VII. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

## CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

### I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. Introductions of Commission members, staff, and guests were made.

### II. Approval of February 13, 2008 Minutes

**There was no quorum. The approval of minutes will be moved to the next meeting.**

### III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

Anne Schuster, Executive Committee member for the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition (CSC), presented information regarding the March 31<sup>st</sup> Town Hall meeting. The CSC is partnering with the City on a series of three meetings. The March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting is open to the general public to gather ideas about the social, economic, and environmental issues in Corvallis. Other topics to be covered will be wellness, transportation, homelessness, waste management, and city design. Approximately 10 work groups will be formed according to topic. Workgroups will meet weekly and report back to the CSC at the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to form action plans. The final meeting will be October 7<sup>th</sup>. Vice-Chair Verts suggested contacting the Master Recyclers regarding their donating volunteer time to the CSC. Ms. Namba offered to place posters on CTS buses publicizing the event. Chair Lowry asked for Ms. Schuster's perception of the role transportation plays in the CSC. Ms. Schuster stated fuel reduction and intercity transportation are key goals. There was a discussion of the University of Oregon's (UO) new bus coach service from Eugene to Portland via Albany and Salem, and whether a similar service could operate between the mid-Willamette Valley and the coast. Ms. Namba reviewed the Coast to Valley Express, a Benton County/Lincoln County joint venture which provides bus coach service between Corvallis and Newport Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Seating is available to the public on space availability basis, seniors and persons with disabilities receive seating priority.

### IV. Old Business

#### **Route Revision Subcommittee Update**

The subcommittee met on both February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bates reported that at the March meeting, the subcommittee decided to focus on one area of Corvallis or one route per meeting. Routes 3 and 8 and service to the southwest area of Corvallis, in general, were reviewed. Some of the topics considered were:

- The possibility of combining two routes in the southwest area to make one 30-minute route.
- Providing service to the Grand Oaks subdivision.
- Using the Philomath Connection (PC) and possibly subsidizing the PC to assist in providing 30-minute service. The PC currently does not operate between the hours of 12:15 p.m. and 3:06 p.m.

- Consider a route structure that doesn't necessitate all routes beginning and ending at the Downtown Transit Center (DTC).

Chair Lowry wants to make sure the subcommittee adheres to the time line presented by Mr. Mitchell at the February 13, 2008 CACOT meeting. The May 14<sup>th</sup> CACOT meeting is when the work of the subcommittee will be presented as a series of alternatives. Staff decided to incorporate the \$180,000 enhancement with route revisions. The subcommittee will meet every Friday with a set agenda.

Chair Lowry said he is concerned about the ability of buses to turn around at Grand Oaks. Commissioner Friedt questioned if the new development north of Walnut Boulevard on Kings Boulevard will have streets structured for bus service. Ms. Namba stated that the Land Development Code has relevant language in it regarding access to transit by new development. Chair Lowry requested staff to drive a section of Route 5, traveling northbound on NW Kings Boulevard, left on NW Walnut Boulevard, left on NW Professional Drive (block going through the medical complex) then right onto NW Kings Boulevard, as an alternative to the route currently going around the Timberhill Shopping Center. Commissioner Friedt questioned if ridership data was available for the two stops on NW Kings Boulevard that would be lost due to route reconfiguration. Mr. Bates was able to retrieve the information and stated the ridership was very small for these stops.

## **V. New Business**

None.

## **VI. Information Sharing**

**CTS presentation before ASOSU's Student Incidental Fee Committee (SIFC)** - The CTS proposed \$.21 increase for the group-pass program on CTS for FY 2008-09 was approved by the ASOSU Senates. Through this approved increase, the students have agreed to fund their proportional percentage of the \$180,000 enhancement. One SIFC member was an outstanding advocate of transit. He stated that he'd spoken with many students and that the feedback he'd received was that, of the student fees, the two essential and best value fees are for student health and transportation.

**CTS/ASOSU Student Advisory Committee** - Mr. Bates has initiated the formation of a CTS/ASOSU transit advisory committee that will be student-led. A mission statement is being crafted for inclusion in the ASOSU handbook. Commissioner Friedt asked if the committee would assist in getting CTS buses back into the campus core. Staff responded that there are ongoing discussions with OSU personnel regarding this subject.

Ms. Namba commented that Joe Whinnery from Public Works attended the Alternative Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) meeting at Oregon State University (OSU). At that meeting Michelle Rhoads of OSU Transit and Parking Services presented information regarding the OSU shuttle, the redesign of its routes and elimination of free parking near the motor pool lot. The eventual goal is to keep vehicles outside the campus

core and use the OSU shuttle to bring people into campus. There was discussion about CTS as part of the solution. Vice-Chair Verts is concerned that getting persons into campus is currently very difficult. Mr. Bates is hoping to recruit Rainier Farmer, chair of ATAC, on to the CTS/ASOSU advisory committee. OSU is considering a transfer center at SW 26<sup>th</sup> and SW Washington Avenue at which CTS, PC, and the OSU shuttle could transfer easily.

**Linn-Benton Loop (LB Loop) route change** - Testing was on Friday. Mr. Bates and CAMPO Director Ali Bonakdar rode on the test routes with LB Loop personnel. The test driver had reservations about the accessibility of Washington Avenue from 5<sup>th</sup> Street and instead favors turning onto Jefferson Avenue from 5<sup>th</sup> Street. That is the route CTS buses currently travel. Travel time for the reconfigured routes would be about the same as they are now. The test run was done at the actual times the LB Loop normally runs. Mr. Bates invited representatives from Good Samaritan Hospital and Linn Benton Community College's Benton Center to the March LB Loop meeting to provide input. Commissioner Friedt mentioned the need for a bus stop on SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street and SW Jefferson Avenue across from the Gazette Times office.

**Ridership** - Commissioner Friedt asked what percentage of riders are students. Staff responded that students make up approximately 38% of ridership. Chair Lowry praised the overall increase in CTS ridership numbers.

#### **Follow-Up Issues**

- Wheelchair lift on the low floor bus - First Student's mechanic can not re-create the problem when the bus goes into the shop. Chair Lowry suggested replacing the electrical switch.
- Beaver Bus drivers access to cell phones - Mr. Bates spoke with the First Student Operations Manager, Brian Maxwell, regarding the method of communication to be used by the Beaver Bus drivers while on route. Drivers will be provided a cell phone for emergency use during the service if they do not currently carry one.
- Commissioner Friedt noted that the bus interiors are cleaner, exteriors are still dirty.
- Mr. Bates attended a driver meeting in March and told them the yellow curbing on SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street at SW Jefferson Avenue will be extended one car length to the north. In response to questions from Mr. Bates, drivers opined the following: drivers think routes on SW West Hills and Sw 53<sup>rd</sup> Street have regular riders, returning to SW 49<sup>th</sup> Street would cause them to get off schedule, causing on-time performance problems, and running Route 3 past Stoneybrook generated new riders that quickly went away, leaving a core of 4-5 people regularly riding. Travel training may help with the assisted living or retirement center ridership.

## **VII. Adjournment**

**Chair Lowry adjourned the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: April 9, 2008, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room**