

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT AGENDA

Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 8:15 a.m.

Madison Avenue Meeting Room

500 SW Madison Avenue

- I. INTRODUCTIONS

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 9, 2008 meeting

- III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS

- IV. OLD BUSINESS

- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - Service enhancement process discussion

- VI. INFORMATION SHARING

- VII. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, April 9, 2008, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

The Madison Avenue Meeting Room is accessible to the public.
Please contact Tim Bates at (541) 766-6916
if you need special accommodations to attend the meeting.

APPROVED

February 13, 2008
by CACOT

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
January 9, 2008**

Present

Bob Lowry, Chair
Lita Verts, Vice-Chair
Stephan Friedt
Brandon Trelstad
Robert E. Wilson
George Grosch, City Councilor

Staff

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

Visitors

Susan Hyne, CoHo Ecovillage, Inc.
Jim Mitchell, Transportation Division Manager

Absent

Rick Crawford, ASOSU
Scott Carroll
Joe Harrod

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of November 14, 2007 Minutes December 12, 2007 Minutes			Approved, with corrections. Approved.
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	N/A		
IV. Old Business • Route Revision Update	X		
V. New Business • Discussion on Alternatives for \$180,000 Service Enhancement	X		
VI. Information Sharing • Written Report	X		
VII. Adjournment	X		Adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:21 a.m.

Introductions of Commission members, staff, and guests were made.

II. Approval of November 14, 2007 Minutes

Page 3, paragraph 4, line 5 add should read “concern is that **there** are little”.

Commissioners Wilson and Friedt, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve the November 14, 2007 minutes, with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

• Approval of December 12, 2007 Minutes

Commissioners Wilson and Friedt, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission recommend approval of the December 12, 2007 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

- No comments.

IV. Old Business

Route Revision Update - The subcommittee met January 8, 2008. Below is a recap of the meeting notes:

- **Route 1** - Chair Lowry reported ridership figures for Route 1 at the east end were very small. There are only three stops on NW Walnut Boulevard not served by another route. One suggestion was to shorten Route 1 by returning to the Downtown Transit Center (DTC) after Timberhill Shopping Center; this would result in a 40 minute route. A separate 20-minute route from the DTC would travel 2nd Street to the south end of Hewlett-Packard and back to the DTC on 2nd St.

- **Routes 2, 4 and 7** - The decision of the sub-committee is this area is working well except for signage. No one from the Regent has mentioned problems with the current route service. Vice-Chair Verts said safety at the Regent stop across NW Elks Drive is a concern since residents have to cross the street, which may be difficult for some of them. It was clarified that Regent residents have service on both sides of the street. Councilor Grosch questioned why there are three routes to Good Samaritan Hospital, and if ridership warrants three buses. Ms. Namba stated the buses come from different geographic areas and the hospital complex serves

as a de facto transfer station. Corvallis Clinic and Good Samaritan Hospital are also participants of the Group Pass Program. Commissioner Friedt would like a survey or geographic study to show the number of riders that are alighting at the Good Samaritan complex, where they are coming from and the percentages. Ms. Namba stated staff had done a short onboard survey in regards to the direction of travel issue and would need to perform an in-depth survey to obtain the information Commissioner Friedt requested. The long-term goal is to establish other transfer points throughout the system. This happens now by drivers using their radios to contact one another to coordinate transfer details at common stop locations. Jim Mitchell commented about the reversal of routes at the Good Samaritan complex and the associated costs and that the Commission would need to determine if changing the route direction is worth the cost.

- **Route 5** - Mr. Bates elaborated on the signage issues on Route 5 at NW Kings Boulevard and NW Monroe Avenue. Better signage at the NW Kings Boulevard shelter would be helpful. Mr. Bates presented a possible route revision to Route 5 which would alter the route on NW Rolling Green Drive due to difficulty turning left onto NW Kings Boulevard. Instead of turning left at NW Kings Boulevard, Route 5 would go from NW Rolling Green Drive and turn left on NW Forestgreen Avenue, turn right on NW 17th Street, turn right onto NW Circle Boulevard, then left onto NW Kings Boulevard at the traffic signal. Chair Lowry would like to review numbers of riders possibly affected by this change since the southbound stops on NW Kings Boulevard between NW Rolling Green Drive and NW Circle would be eliminated from Route 5. Mr. Bates said the Route 5 option would also need to be driven to verify timing issues.
- **Routes 3 and 8** - Ms. Namba would like to address the possibility of Routes 3 or 8 providing service to SW 49th Street. Routes 3, 8, and the Philomath Connection provide service to the SW area. Reconfiguration of those routes could help to better serve the SW area. Mr. Mitchell would also like to resume service to the core of Oregon State University campus. Previous issues have been on-time performance and OSU Facilities wanting to keep vehicles out of the OSU core. Currently the Philomath Connection and Beaver Bus routes use 26th Street and SW Jefferson Avenue through campus. Scarce parking, mobility/physical limitation issues, and the condition of Jefferson Avenue between 15th - 26th Streets need to be addressed. It may be possible to use 26th Street and SW Jefferson Avenue as a transfer point to the OSU Shuttle in addition to 15th Street and SW Jefferson Avenue. Forming an ASOSU Advisory Committee on Transit and involving the Environmental Affairs Task Force could help address this issue.

V. New Business

- **Discussion on Alternatives for \$180,000 Service Enhancement**

Mr. Mitchell discussed the memorandum to CACOT regarding a request to the Budget Commission for increased funds for transit. Mr. Mitchell solicited input from CACOT on how the additional service hours could be used. Co-Chair Verts would like longer evening hours to specific routes serving OSU. This would allow students to use CTS for transportation to and

from jobs at night. Commissioner Friedt thought increasing frequency on Routes 2 and 8 rather than 3 and 4 would offer more service to commercial areas for employees. Routes running extended hours in the evening could be configured differently from daytime routes. Commissioner Wilson thinks increasing frequency and extending service hours address the two major areas of rider concern. Ms. Namba would like feedback on the eight-month scenario versus a yearly scenario, as presented in the memo. Mr. Mitchell suggested that people have other transportation alternatives during the summer season and believes the eight-month scenario provides the best use of the additional hours. In response to a Commissioner's question, staff stated consideration of reprinting schedules due to having different routes at different times of the year and the related staff time have not been factored into the costs. Councilor Grosch reiterated the importance of getting this proposal into the base budget. There would need to be a balance of frequency, increased service during commuter peaks and extended hours. Commissioner Trelstad expressed concern with not having enough data to demonstrate which of the three service enhancements would yield the highest increase in ridership. Ms. Namba stated the Citizen Attitude Survey is the best information currently available. Steve Rogers, Director Public Works, is scheduled to present this information January 31, 2008 to the Budget Commission. Public comment will be February 5, 2008, at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station. Councilor Grosch would like the allocation for Beaver Bus to be in the Enhancement Budget.

VI. Information Sharing - Written Report

- **Beaver Bus** - Cindy Hallett spoke about the January 10th "Beaver Bus Returns" celebration to get media attention. Benny Beaver will be present and the Beaver Bus service will be free this week. New Beaver Bus posters are posted at bus shelters and the Library. Beaver Bus decals have been added to CTS signs on Monroe Avenue and Kings Boulevard along the Beaver Bus route. The service operates 8:45 p.m. to 2:45 a.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 10th through March 15th, then April 3rd through June 7th. Ms. Hallett stated the breaks in service make it hard to keep the continuity of ridership going. The goal for the first week of service is to double the ridership from the first week of January, 2007.
- **Holiday Trolley** - Ms. Hallett acknowledged First Student for donating driver time and Trolley operations costs for the Community Parade. Commissioner Trelstad questioned the gap in funding. Ms Hallett is waiting for a few sponsors to pay. The actual income will be \$6,725, with a 2007 shortfall of \$725.00. This compares to the 2006 shortfall of \$1,100.00. With the ability to recruit sponsors earlier in the year, the 2008 Holiday Trolley should be self supporting. Commissioner Friedt would like to have a Holiday Lights evening run with a possible food drive. Ms. Hallett said that could be possible if there are sponsors to cover the costs.
- **Summer Youth Transit Program** - Ms. Namba stated since Allied Waste has committed to the "2008 Expanded Summer Youth Program", CTS was able to get advertising in the Corvallis Parks and Recreation summer activity guide. The Expanded Summer Youth Program will provide free rides to all youth 17 years of age and under.
- **Ridership** - In the Information Sharing report the last sentence should include "is still

on pace to set an annual ridership record”.

VII. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2008, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

For a copy of the Information Sharing Report or Memorandum from Jim Mitchell, contact Tim Bates at Public Works, 541-766-6916.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Feb. 1, 2008

TO: CACOT Members

FROM: Tim Bates, Transit Coordinator

SUBJECT: Information Sharing Report

ASOSU Beaver Bus Request to Budget Commission - On Tuesday, February 5th at the Downtown Fire Station 1, ASOSU Beaver Bus representatives Angie Rodriguez and Kim Konrad presented an enhancement request to the Budget Commission. The proposal requested \$20,000 to fund a portion of the operating costs for the 2008-09 Beaver Bus service. The request was approved by the Budget Commission at their February 7th meeting.

Enhancement request for expanded transit services - The Public Works Department requested \$180,000 to expand transit services to the community. The Budget Commission approved this request at their February 7th meeting. Staff will continue to work with CACOT to devise a plan to implement this enhancement into transit operations. Extensive public outreach will be required.

Beaver Bus - Service resumed January 10-12, 2008. On January 10th staff and ASOSU hosted a "Return of the Beaver Bus" celebration in front of the Library from 12:00pm - 2:00pm. There were giveaways and special guest Benny Beaver was in attendance. Beaver Bus rides were free for this week of service. A special thanks to Gary of Clodfelter's for his attendance during the entire celebration. Staff also participated in an ASOSU event in the OSU MU Quad on January 23rd to help promote the Beaver Bus and CTS in general. This event had a CTS bus present on the quad.

Summer Youth Transit Program - Allied Waste Services will again provide a generous donation in 2008 to buttress this program. We expect to provide youths 17 and under free rides all summer as well as give away many prizes. The 2007 program was wildly successful and staff expects nothing less from the 2008 edition.

Ridership

- **CTS provided 57,208 rides in January (16% increase).** This total was a ridership record for the month of January. CTS has set monthly records for each month of Fiscal Year 07-08 and is on pace to provide 600,000 rides this fiscal year. Ridership for January, 2007 was 49,286.
- **Philomath Connection provided 1,560 rides in January (18.5% increase).** Ridership for January, 2007 was 1,315.
- **Beaver Bus provided 660 rides in January (74.5% increase).** Ridership for January, 2007 was 377.

- **“Honored Citizen” bus passes for seniors 80 + years.** 3 new passes were distributed in January. A total of 457 Honored Citizen passes have been issued since the program began in September, 2004.