

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT AGENDA

**Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 8:15 a.m.
Madison Avenue Meeting Room
500 SW Madison Avenue**

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 11, 2008

III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- Review of the eligible age for the "Honored Citizen" pass

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, August 13, 2008, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, September 10, 2008, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, October 8, 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

July 9, 2008
by CACOT

..... **CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT**
MINUTES
June 11, 2008

Present

Bob Lowry, Chair
Lita Verts, Vice-Chair
Stephan Friedt
Susan Hyne
Brandon Trelstad
Robert E. Wilson

Staff

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

Absent

Tad Abernathy
Rick Crawford, ASOSU
George Grosch, City Councilor

Visitors

Ali Bonakdar, CAMPO
Mayor Charlie Tomlinson
Michael Helberg
Jerry Krantz
Vida Krantz
Adam Stebbins

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of May 14, 2008 Minutes			Approved June 11, 2008, as amended
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments • Charlie Tomlinson	X		
IV. Old Business • Route Revision Subcommittee Update and Final Recommendations			Approved Sub-Committee Recommendations
V. New Business • Reduction of Eligible Age for "Honored Citizen" • Election of Vice-Chair		X	Held until July 9, 2008 Commissioner Friedt elected Vice-Chair
VI. Information Sharing • Written Report • daVinci Days	X X		
VII. Adjournment	X		Adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:23 a.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes - May 14, 2008

Corrections:

Page 3, paragraph 2, sentence 3 the word “matrixes” shall be replaced with “measures”.

Page 3, paragraph 3, sentence 2 shall read “In order to find hours to provide Sunday service, the proposed Saturday hours could be cut by having 2 of the 3 routes with half-hour service switch to an hourly service”.

Commissioners Friedt and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve the May 14, 2008 minutes, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

Mayor Charlie Tomlinson thanked the Commission and staff for their work. Mayor Tomlinson recently attended a meeting featuring coordinated transit services hosted by Mr. Bonakdar and was impressed with the progress being made by the group. He is currently going through the process of reappointing Commissioners.

Mr. Bonakdar reported he is working with City staff on developing a “universal pass” for area transit services.

Mr. Krantz lives on West Hills Road and currently uses Route 3. He stated he is concerned that all residents, and especially elderly persons remain well served by transit. Mr. Mitchell pointed out the Philomath Connection will soon provide two-way service on West Hills Road from Western Boulevard to 53rd Street. Staff has been working with the City of Philomath (PC) to have a coordinated fare structure with three bus passes: CTS only; PC only; and CTS/PC combination. Cost for these passes are to be determined and they will be available for purchase in mid-September.

Mr. Helberg asked if the PC will have two handicap spots for handicapped riders. Mr. Mitchell stated the new bus has not been ordered yet, but will recommend a design that will accommodate two handicap spots.

IV. Old Business

Route Revision Update - Mr. Bates reviewed the notes from the May 20th public meeting and written/oral comments received since the meeting. The only revision since the public meeting is a proposed change to the Philomath Connection (PC) route. The PC is proposed to serve West Hills Road in both directions and northbound 26th Street on the OSU campus from Western Boulevard to Monroe Avenue on the way to the Downtown Transit Center. It will no longer directly serve Technology Loop or Hwy 20 between Technology Loop or Western Boulevard.

Mr. Bates reviewed the results of other issues studied by staff in response to public comments:

- **Loss of Direct Service to Stoneybrook** - The current ridership at this stop is extremely low and does not warrant reestablishing at the cost of loss of direct service to the high density residential area on SW 49th Street. Mr. Mitchell said staff is looking into installing a bench to replace the shelter which will be removed at the Stoneybrook stop. This would provide residents of Stoneybrook a midway point at which to rest while walking the additional 400 feet to the 49th Street shelter.
- **Reduction in Service to 53rd Street between Harrison Blvd. and West Hills Rd.** - The sub-committee reviewed current ridership along this area and confirmed that the ridership is extremely low. Mr. Bates rode on Route 8 and discussed the revisions with riders regarding the replacement of Route 8 with the SW Commuter. Ms. Namba provided the Commission a letter from a Route 8 rider who is not pleased with the proposed replacement of Route 8 with the Southwest Commuter.
- **Requests for Service to Crescent Valley High School (CVHS)** - The sub-committee discussed this request and could not support reducing service to other areas to add this area outside city limits and to a low density area. e. Chair Lowry inquired as to the risk to federal funding; Ms. Namba stated that CTS would not be allowed to compete with school district bus service. Other concerns were impacts to on-time performance and coordination with other routes. Commissioner Friedt asked staff to compile statistics from First Student regarding the last time direct service was provided to CVHS.

Commissioners Wilson and Friedt, respectively, moved that CACOT adopt the CTS and PC route revision recommendations proposed by staff and the sub-committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for a public meeting to present the revisions to the public. Commissioner Hyne said outreach to the public is important. Vice-Chair Verts said if there was a public meeting, the public would assume that this would be an opportunity to give input for possible changes, when in fact the Commission has already approved the final revisions. Commissioner Friedt stated that the open house should be for information sharing only. Mr. Mitchell said that if a critical issue comes to light that had not been foreseen, this public meeting would be an opportunity to present such an issue. Commissioner Wilson said he is concerned that a public meeting would lead to another public meeting, thus delaying the implementation process. Chair Lowry stated the two CACOT meetings and the May public meeting have allowed enough time for the

public to voice their concerns. Commissioners Trelstad and Hyne are in favor of an evening informational meeting. Ms. Namba stated the public meeting's details would be publicized on the City's website, on CTS buses and shelters, and in the Gazette-Times. Commissioner Wilson would like a newspaper article written by staff, and hopefully published by the Gazette-Times, which would detail the revisions.

The Commission decided to hold a public meeting, for informational purposes only, at the Downtown Fire Station 1, Thursday, June 26th, 5:00 p.m-6:30 p.m. Staff and Commission members will be on hand to answer the public's inquiries.

V. New Business

Reduction of Eligible Age for "Honored Citizen"

Mr. Bates reviewed details of the current "Honored Citizen" program, details of the origin of the program, and other transit agencies' "Honored Citizen" pass programs. Chair Lowry asked for population demographics that would be informative in this discussion.

Commissioners Wilson and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission reduce the minimum age to 75 years of age for an "Honored Citizen" pass .

Discussion ensued regarding the motion. Commissioners requested a census demographic breakdown. Ms. Namba explained that the program is designed as a goodwill gesture and as a way to get more people riding buses. Chair Lowry tabled the discussion until the July CACOT meeting when the staff can present possible fare losses, demographics, and other information.

Election of Vice-Chair

Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Friedt as Vice-Chair. Chair Lowry nominated Commissioner Hyne.

Commissioner Friedt was elected Vice-Chair by a vote of 4 to 2.

VI. Information Sharing

Written Report - Mr. Bates reviewed the written Information Sharing Report provided in the packet.

Group Pass Update - Effective July 1, 2008, Group Pass Program service will include unlimited rides on the Philomath Connection.

daVinci Days - Ms. Hallett reported CTS will provide free rides July 19th and July 20th. CTS will feature a bus at Green Town. Ms. Hallett is seeking volunteers to work at the exhibit while Green Town is open. (Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday Noon - 5:00 p.m.) Commissioners Hyne and Friedt, and visitor Mike Helberg volunteered.

Summer Youth Transit Program - The program started June 1st and runs until

September 1st. All youth 17 years of age and under receive free rides on CTS and the PC made possible by Allied Waste Services.

Transit Trends - Mr. Mitchell brought to the Commission's attention what is occurring to transit agencies nationwide. The three common responses to the rise in fuel costs are raising fares, reducing services, or increasing services, and that our community is increasing services. Commissioner Friedt asked if advertising on shelters or benches has been considered. Mr. Mitchell said it has not been seriously considered. Vice-Chair Verts thinks it may be a good time to revisit the issue. Chair Lowry questioned if at a state level there could be a combined purchasing group for fuel since the state of Oregon does it for other commodities.

VII. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

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

For a copy of the Information Sharing Report or citizen letter distributed at the meeting, contact Tim Bates at Public Works, 541-766-6916.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 2, 2008
TO: CACOT Members
FROM: Tim Bates, Transit Coordinator
SUBJECT: Information Sharing Report

Charter Service Regulations - In April, 2008 the FTA instituted new regulations on “charter service” provided by vehicles procured or operated with federal funds. CTS buses and trolley fall into this category. Therefore, any charter service, such as the Holiday Trolley, Benton County Fair Shuttle, and Historical Home Tours, which involves a third party or is not fully funded by CTS is subject to these regulations. Charter service operators which are registered on the FTA’s website must be given the right of first refusal before CTS may use its buses or trolley to provide the service. These regulations will not affect free CTS service along its fixed route, such as service for daVinci Days, Fall Festival, etc.

Beaver Bus Summer Hiatus - Beaver Bus service will not operate during the summer. The last weekend of service was the weekend of June 5-7. Service will resume October 2, 2008.

daVinci Days Volunteers - CTS will stage a bus at daVinci Days on Saturday and Sunday, July 19-20. The bus will serve as CTS information center and will need to be staffed at all times. Cindy has enlisted staff and Commissioners as volunteers to staff the bus the entire time it is on display. Thanks to all who have volunteered.

Ridership

See attached ridership sheet for ridership figures of CTS, PC and Beaver Bus.

- **“Honored Citizen” bus passes for seniors 80 + years.** Four new passes were distributed in June. A total of 493 Honored Citizen passes have been issued since the program began in September, 2004.

Advertising Revenue

Quarter	Net Sales	30% of net sales (amount paid to CTS)
July - Sept. 2006	\$7,218.90	\$2,165.67
Oct. - Dec. 2006	\$9,761.30	\$2,928.40

Quarter	Net Sales	35% of net sales (amount paid to CTS)
Jan. - Mar. 2007	\$6,616.35	\$2,315.73
Apr. - Jun. 2007	\$7,748.00	\$2,711.81
Jul. - Sep. 2007	\$10,147.00	\$3,551.45
Oct. - Dec. 2007	\$6,218.00	\$2,176.30
Jan. - Mar. 2008	\$9,557.00	\$3,344.95
Apr. - May 2008*	\$5,860.00	\$2,051.00
Year-to-date		\$21,245.31

* - June 2008 figures not available at the time of this report.

Follow-up on issues presented at June CACOT meeting

There were none.

Corvallis Transit System Ridership Comparison FY06/07 to FY07/08

	FY06/07	FY07/08	Increased # Rides	% Increase
July	40,104	47,968	7,864	19.6%
August	39,681	46,107	6,426	16.2%
September	40,005	43,181	3,176	7.9%
October	51,939	60,112	8,173	15.7%
November	48,967	52,351	3,384	6.9%
December	34,352	38,357	4,005	11.7%
January	49,855	57,208	7,353	14.7%
February	49,279	55,339	6,060	12.3%
March	49,468	51,842	2,374	4.8%
April	50,542	60,900	10,358	20.5%
May	53,693	58,420	4,727	8.8%
June	48,326	54,549	6,223	12.9%
Totals	556,211	626,334	70,123	12.6%

Philomath Connection

	FY06/07	FY07/08	Increased # Rides	% Increase
July	1,059	1,272	213	20.1%
August	1,090	1,160	70	6.4%
September	983	1,029	46	4.7%
October	1,350	1,734	384	28.4%
November	1,348	1,509	161	11.9%
December	1,085	915	-170	-15.7%
January	1,315	1,560	245	18.6%
February	1,157	1,294	137	11.8%
March	1,326	1,327	1	0.1%
April	1,408	1,674	266	18.9%
May	1,388	1,608	220	15.9%
June	1,269	1,536	267	21.0%
Totals	14,778	16,618	1,840	12.5%

Beaver Bus (rides included in CTS figures)

	FY06/07	FY07/08	Increased # Rides	% Increase
September	95	101	6	6.3%
October	708	780	72	10.2%
November	723	736	13	1.8%
December	95	78	-17	-17.9%
January	377	660	283	75.1%
February	720	995	275	38.2%
March	593	645	52	8.8%
April	795	1,036	241	30.3%
May	940	1,281	341	36.3%
June	457	251	-206	-45.1%
Totals	5,503	6,563	1,060	19.3%

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 3, 2008

TO: CACOT

FROM: Tim Bates, Transit Coordinator

SUBJECT: Review of the eligible age for the “Honored Citizen” pass

ISSUE

At the May meeting, CACOT was asked to consider lowering the minimum age of qualification for an “Honored Citizen” pass. A motion was made and seconded to reduce the eligible age to 75. Following discussion by the Commission, the issue was held until the July meeting to allow staff to gather more data, including age demographics for Corvallis, for the Commission to consider..

BACKGROUND

See June’s staff report (attached) for background information presented at the June meeting.

DISCUSSION

One Commissioner stated that he would like to see consistency in the way the transit agencies in the State deal with the “Honored Citizen” pass. Since Lane Transit District, the only other Oregon transit agency we are aware of with a program like this, has set the eligible age for their program as 70, he prefers the CTS/PC eligible age also be 70. It should be noted that Lane Transit District is proposing to lower their Honored Rider eligible age to 65, effective September 1st. For comparison, below is a summary of fare structures used by several Oregon transit providers:

CTS: “Honored Citizen” life-time free pass for citizens 80 years of age and older. Seniors 60 years of age and older qualify for Senior/Youth/Disabled (SYD) fares. Adult full cash fare is 75 cents. SYD fare is 35 cents. Youth 5 and under ride free.

Albany Transit System: There is no equivalent “Honored Citizen” free pass. Seniors 60 years of age and older qualify for SYD fares. Adult full cash fare is 75 cents. SYD fare is 50 cents. Youth 5 and under ride free.

Linn Benton Loop: There is no equivalent “Honored Citizen” free pass. Seniors 60 years and older qualify for SYD fares. Adult full cash fare is \$1.25. SYD fare is \$1.00. Youth 5 and under ride free.

Tri-Met (Portland): There is no equivalent “Honored Citizen” free pass. Seniors 65 years and older qualify for SYD fares. Adult full cash fare is \$2.05. SYD fare is 85 cents. Youth 6 and under ride free.

Cherriots (Salem): There is no equivalent “Honored Citizen” free pass. Seniors 60 years of age and older qualify for SYD fares. Adult full cash fare is \$1.00 . Senior and Disabled fare is 50 cents. Youth fare is 75 cents. Youth 5 and under ride free.

Lane Transit District (Eugene): “Honored Citizen” life-time free pass for citizens 70 years of age and older. Adult full cash fare is \$1.25. SYD fare is 60 cents. Youth 5 and under ride free.

Rogue Valley Transportation District (Medford/Ashland): There is no equivalent “Honored Citizen” free pass. Seniors 62 years of age and older qualify for SYD fares. Adult full cash fare is \$2.00. SYD fare is \$1.00. Youth 9 and under ride free.

Based on these comparisons, it is clear that there is no consistency in fare structures between these transit agencies.

Below is the age demographics for Corvallis according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau figures:

- Under 5 years - 2,396 (4.9%)
- 65 to 74 years - 2,194 (4.4%)
- 75 to 84 years - 1,947 (3.9 %)
- 85 years and over - 829 - (1.7%)

According to these figures, there are 2,776 residents 75 years and older. This figure constitutes 5.6% of the Corvallis population and is roughly equivalent to the figure for the population under 5 years old (4.9%), a group which receives free rides on CTS. Adding an additional amount for the 5 year-olds, it is likely that the number representing 5 and younger would be very close to the same as the number representing 75 and older. Leaving the eligible age at 80 would benefit approximately 3.6% of the local population.

If the minimum age were to be lowered to 70 years (assuming the age 70-74 population in Corvallis is 1,097) 3,873 residents would be eligible for a free pass. This represents approximately 7.9% of the City’s population.

Staff was asked to examine the potential effect on fare box revenue if the minimum age were lowered. The latest CTS ridership count revealed 10% of ridership is comprised of seniors. Rides provided for FY 07-08 is approximately 620,000, so approximately 62,000 rides were provided to seniors. Assuming each age demographic took an equivalent number of rides, the following number of rides were provided:

- 60-64 - 11,160 (18%)
- 65-69 - 11,160 (18%)
- 70-74 - 11,160 (18%)
- 75-79 - 9,920 (16%)
- 80+ 18,600 (30%)

The following is a projection of possible loss of revenue due to the lowering of the minimum age for a free senior pass. The number of rides shown below is 3% less than their original totals because CTS provides free rides days during 3% of its service days. No other free rides or discounted pass fares were considered for this calculation so these represent the maximum revenue loss.

If lowered to 75 years of age: 9,622 rides x 35 cents = \$3,368
If lowered to 70 years of age: 20,447 rides x 35 cents = \$7,156
If lowered to 65 years of age: 31,272 rides x 35 cents = \$10,945
If lowered to 60 years of age: 42,097 rides x 35 cents = \$14,734

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the minimum age for a senior’s free lifetime pass be set at 75. Further, staff recommends the term “Honored Citizen” be replaced with “Honored Rider”.