

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
AGENDA**

**Wednesday, August 8, 2007, 8:15 a.m.**

**Madison Avenue Meeting Room  
500 SW Madison Avenue**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
  
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 11, 2007 CACOT meeting
  
- III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS - Items not already on agenda
  
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
  
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - Commission input on route revisions
  
- VI. INFORMATION SHARING
  - See written report
  - Voith transmission update
  
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, September 12, 2007, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, October 10, 2007, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room

Wednesday, November 14, 2007, 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.

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
MINUTES  
July 11, 2007**

**Present**

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

**Absent**

Scott Carroll  
George Grosch, City Councilor

**Staff**

Lisa Namba, Public Works  
Tim Bates, Public Works

**Visitors**

Katie Friedt  
Hundley J. Bergstad  
Tiffany Williamson, ASOSU

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of June 13, 2007 Minutes			Approved
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	X		
IV. Old Business			
• Update on Bus Cleanliness Issues	X		
V. New Business			
• Discussion of Bus Length	X		
VI. Information Sharing	X		
VII. Adjournment			Adjourned

## **CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

### **I. Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 8:19 a.m.

Introductions of Commission members, staff and visitors were made.

### **II. Approval of June 13, 2007 Minutes**

**Commissioners Friedt and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission recommend approval of the June 13, 2007 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **III. CACOT/Visitor Comments**

- Mr. Bergstad asked the Commission for a possible solution to connect Corvallis Transit System (CTS) to other modes of transportation in order to provide public transportation from Corvallis to Monmouth, Salem and other points north of Corvallis. Ms. Namba replied that FTA funds made available to the City of Corvallis can only be used to provide transit within the Corvallis urbanized area, including Philomath and Adair Village. Chair Lowry pointed out that Greyhound provides service from Corvallis to cities to the north. He also noted that in the past commuter service along 99W was provided privately. Mr. Bergstad also questioned why CTS passes aren't honored on the Philomath Connection. Staff noted that this question has come up before and agreed to look into what it would take to do this.
- Ms. Namba introduced Mr. Bates as the recently-hired Transit Coordinator.

### **IV. Old Business**

- **Update on Bus Cleanliness Issues**

#### **Background:**

At the May meeting, Brian Maxwell of Laidlaw was asked to comment on citizen and CTS drivers' observations that the buses need to be cleaned more often and more thoroughly. At the meeting, Mr. Maxwell said there were two issues hampering his efforts to have the buses cleaned - dust at the unpaved Laidlaw facility and difficulty in finding quality employees to clean the buses. He committed to address the issue of quality employees.

#### **Discussion:**

Mr. Bates reported that he conducted a visual inspection of the six buses operating during a recent weekday. He observed the bus dashboards and windshields to be no cleaner than at the time of the May Commission meeting. He contacted Mr. Maxwell who said he

would personally work with the employee who cleans the buses to ensure the employee was aware of the standards expected by Laidlaw. Mr. Bates told the Commission he will schedule a visual inspection in several weeks at which he and Mr. Maxwell will jointly observe each operating bus to gauge cleanliness.

## **V. New Business**

### **• Discussion on Bus Length Issues**

CTS currently has only 35-foot buses in its fleet. Ms. Namba provided a handout of specifications for 29-foot buses. Staff is considering the addition of a 29-foot bus to its fleet and wants to gauge the Commission's interest. Enticing factors in a shorter bus include better fuel efficiency, better turning radius, less wear and tear on streets, and improved public perception of "full" buses. A potential negative factors would be less seating because the 29-foot bus seats a maximum of 28 passengers while the 35-foot bus seats a maximum of 32 passengers.

Chair Lowry cited limited seating capacity as a significant negative because it would mean the shorter bus would not be able to effectively handle the higher passenger routes, limiting its use to routes with an expected low number of passengers. He also opined that smaller buses could create the negative public perception that we anticipate transit ridership will not increase over time.

Commissioner Wilson asked if maintenance costs are traditionally lower for 29-foot buses than for 35-foot buses. Staff agreed to look into this issue and report back to the Commission.

## **VI. Information Sharing**

- Commissioner Friedt and Mr. Bates agreed to develop a survey for CTS drivers to capture their impressions on the effectiveness of current bus stops and suggestions for proposed new stops. This information will then be forwarded to the Commission's subcommittee on route revisions.
- In response to a question from the Commission, staff agreed to look into how other agencies handle bicycles on their buses. The City has been informed that Gillig will no longer supply buses with 3-position racks due to the concern that these racks block the headlamps.

## **VII. Adjournment**

**Commissioners Friedt and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve adjournment. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: August 8, 2007, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room**

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2007  
TO: CACOT Members  
FROM: Tim Bates, Transportation Services Supervisor  
SUBJECT: Information Sharing Report

- **Street Construction Updates this summer** - The following street construction projects may affect on-time performance (routes which are affected are in parentheses)
  - Walnut Blvd. from Highland Drive to Garryanna Drive (Route 1) - Work is ongoing on the westbound lanes of Walnut Blvd. The project is expected to be completed in early September.
  - SW 53<sup>rd</sup> Street from Technology Loop to Country Club Drive (Route 3 and Philomath Connection) - Work is scheduled to be completed by end of August.
  - SW Country Club Drive near 45<sup>th</sup> Street (Route 3) - Work will begin August 13<sup>th</sup> and is expected to last until October.
  - SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Jefferson Avenue - Traffic Signal Work (nearly all routes): Work is expected to begin in late August and is expected to be completed in mid-October.
- **Ridership**
  - **CTS provided 46,991 rides in July.** This was an all-time record for ridership in the month of July.
  - **Philomath Connection provided 1,272 rides in July.** This total was more than 300 rides more than the July average for the previous five years.
- **“Honored Citizen” bus passes (free passes for seniors 80 + years of age)** - Seven new passes were distributed in June for a total of 431 Honored Citizen bus passes issued since the program began in September, 2004.
- **On-Time Performance** - Overall CTS on-time performance in June was 90%, as measured for all routes using departure from the DTC. This is how on-time performance has been determined in the past. However, there is significant variation in percentage of on-time performance by route, and when measured at the approximate midpoints of the routes, as follows:

Route	Departure from DTC	Midpoint of Route
1	89%	26%*
2	91%	73%
3	95%	91%
4	100%	96%
5	93%	85%
6	98%	86%
7	95%	33%
8	92%	75%

\* - Due in large part to construction project on Walnut Blvd. from Highland Dr. to Garryanna Dr.