

APPROVED

January 8, 2008

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
December 12, 2007**

Present

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

Absent

Rick Crawford, ASOSU
Scott Carroll
Joe Harrod
Brandon Trelstad

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of November 14, 2007 Minutes		X	No quorum.
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments	X		
IV. Old Business Route revision subcommittee update	X		
V. New Business None			
VI. Information Sharing Survey results from Samaritan Health Services employees	X		
VII. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:22 a.m.

Introductions of Commission members, staff and guests were made.

II. Approval of November 14, 2007 Minutes

There were not enough Commissioners present for a quorum. Approval of minutes will be scheduled for the January 9, 2008 meeting.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

- Susan Hyne from CoHo EcoVillage, Inc. addressed the Commission. She is a current CTS rider and is interested in becoming a Commissioner in June, 2008 when there will be a vacancy. Ms. Hyne is aware of the application process for a Commission seat and plans to attend Commission meetings to familiarize herself with the issues being discussed.

IV. Old Business

- **Route Revision Update**

Chair Lowry reported there is progress being made but a need to do more work. The subcommittee is looking at Routes 1, 3 and 8. The subcommittee will meet again before the January, 2008 Commission meeting and will provide a report then.

V. New Business

- There was no New Business on the agenda. Chair Lowry asked about the status of the transit Operations and Maintenance Facility project. Ms. Namba stated the project is still on hold. About one year ago the FTA called into question the City's proposed partnership with the school district, since federal funds cannot be used to support a non-federal activity. Ms. Namba said that if we want to continue pursuing the partnership option, a City representative will eventually need to go to the FTA office in Seattle in person to present a proposal. Commissioner Friedt questioned if CTS could build the facility and then lease some space to the school district. Ms. Namba stated the FTA would likely question the initial overbuilding. Councilor Grosch questioned if this is something that should be brought up at a school board meeting next week. Ms. Namba will get more information and report to the Commission at the next meeting.

VI. Information Sharing

- **Survey Results from Avery Square/Good Sam Regional Medical Center** - Employees of Avery Square and Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (GSRMC) were queried via email on switching the departure times of Routes 2 and 4. Mr. Bates reviewed the survey results. By a three to one margin, employees expressed a desire to maintain the route times as they are. Mr. Bates noted that he responded via email or phone to all questions and comments from the surveys.

Ms. Namba stated that the Group Pass count done in early November showed that employees of Samaritan Health Services and Benton County had significant ridership, City of Corvallis had poor ridership and Corvallis Clinic even less ridership.

Chair Lowry stated there is a hole in the Linn-Benton Loop schedule for employees trying to get back to Albany in the evening. He suggested a single bus run starting from GSRMC which would service stops at Avery Square, the Downtown Transit Center, LBCC and the Albany Transit Center. This run would last approximately 50 minutes and would be a partnership between the Loop and CTS, using a CTS bus.

- **Philomath Connection** - Mr. Bates and Ms. Namba met with Philomath City Manager Randy Kugler and Philomath Finance Director Joan Swanson regarding, among many topics, merging the fare systems of the Philomath Connection and CTS. Philomath was amenable to the concept. Commissioner Friedt questioned if the proposed fare merge would be a zone fare or common fare. Ms. Namba stated that details were not worked out in the initial meeting. Staff is currently working on a complete revamping of the PC map and in the meantime will produce an “interim map” with information that is more up-to-date than what exists on the PC map currently in circulation. Staff and the City of Philomath are considering a name change and new logo for the PC. The City of Philomath is interested in putting advertisements on the PC bus, using the same advertising agency that CTS currently employs. Ms. Namba is also planning to market future group pass programs to include the PC.
- **CTS/PC Budget** - In response to an earlier Commissioner request, Mr. Bates reported on the CTS/PC operating budget (operations, fuel and maintenance only). The annual operating budget of the PC is approximately \$100,000 and the CTS annual operating budget is approximately \$1.5 million. The entire transit budget is approximately \$2 million per year. A federal operating grant provides for nearly \$650,000; a state pass-through JARC grant provides \$150,000. Bus purchases are programmed in special projects, not in the operating budget.

- **New Bus update** - Staff is currently putting together a capital grant request for one 35' bus. Soon after the federal transportation budget is authorized, CTS will have appropriations for another bus. Staff looked at 29' buses, but after considering future capacity, floor plan, and prior Commission recommendations, the better option appears to be the 35' bus. Commissioner Friedt asked about the ability to obtain a hybrid bus. Staff has not seriously entertained the idea of a hybrid bus yet due to high purchase price and projected maintenance costs, although it is a possibility for the future. Commissioner Friedt asked staff to remain vigilant on the ever-changing hybrid technology. Chair Lowry commented that Salem's buses use compressed natural gas and they incur higher costs to maintain a backup station.
- **On time performance** - Commissioner Friedt stated the subcommittee was looking at adjusting schedules during afternoon peak times. Commissioner Friedt would like a report of a.m. and p.m. arrival and departure times at the DTC. This will help determine the difference in traffic flow in the morning and afternoon.
- **City of Corvallis 2007 Citizen Attitude Survey** - Ms. Namba presented the City of Corvallis 2007 Citizen Attitude Survey and gave an overview of the transit-related questions and responses:
Page 3, question 5, item G, "Persons using city bus service"- 32% have used the transit system.
"Rate the quality" - 82.7% as excellent or good.
Page 5, question 9, item K,—"Purchase a bus pass on the web" - over 50 % would find that useful.
Page 6, item 12, "Increase frequency" 33%, "Extended evening hours" - 29%, "Sunday service" - 14%, "Other" - 23% (in response to a question about desired services if funding were available).
Page 6, item 11 - "Found transit valuable" - 87%.

VII. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

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

For a copy of the Information Sharing Report or City of Corvallis 2007 Citizen Attitude Survey contact Tim Bates at Public Works, 541-766-6916.