

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES

May 10, 2006

Members Present

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

Staff

Michelle Rhoads, Public Works

Visitors

Paul Morgan

Absent

Emily Hagen, City Councilor
 Annie McMahon

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

| Agenda Item | Information Only | Held for Further Review | Recommendations/Action |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| I. Introductions | X | | |
| II. Approval of Minutes- April 12, 2006 | | | Approved |
| III. CACOT/Visitor's Comments | X | | Consensus on City's proposal for a 5% telecommunications tax |
| IV. Status of Route Revisions | X | | |
| V. Information Sharing | X | | |
| VI. Adjournment | X | | |

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

Introductions of Commission members, staff and visitors were made.

II. Approval of Minutes- April 12, 2006

Commissioners Friedt and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve the April 12, 2006 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor's Comments

- Mr. Morgan said it would be helpful to have "No Smoking" signs on both the inside and outside of bus shelters. Ms. Rhoads said staff is looking into putting them on both sides.
- Commissioner Verts asked for an addition to the agenda. She was asked by Mayor Berg to solicit Commission comment on the proposed 5% telecommunications tax on telecommunications providers within the City.

Ms. Rhoads read excerpts from Mayor Berg's April 4, 2006 memorandum titled "Telecommunications Service Tax Proposal", which was previously distributed to all members of City advisory commissions and boards. The memorandum describes the City's intent to provide "a level playing field" for all telecommunications companies operating in Corvallis by collecting a 5% franchise fee across the board; further that "if the new revenue is not pursued" that "the City would potentially need to reduce services in other areas to fund the critical Fire services".

Commissioner Lowry said that because transit riders are not generally a vocal group, there is a somewhat weak public representation advocating for transit. The Budget process from two years ago was mentioned as an example, in which advocates of the Osborne Aquatic Center attended public meetings in high numbers to solicit support for their interest.

Commissioners Friedt, Trelstad and Carroll said they were somewhat apprehensive in issuing a declaration on behalf of the Commission for or against the proposed tax. There were questions about the process being used to tender the proposal, its relationship to this Commission and the political nature of the request.

Commissioner Lowry agreed that it is not the Commission's charge to weigh in as a body. Ms. Rhoads stated that Commission members have two avenues available to them in which to state their views on the proposal and that they can have different opinions through each of those roles:

- As a Transit Commission member, advising the City Council on policy, operational and funding matters

affecting the Transit program, representing the interests and needs of Transit

- As a citizen of Corvallis or user of Corvallis-area telecommunications services or transit services, they can register their personal perspective on the proposal

There was discussion that if this funding is not secured by the City, the transit program could potentially be negatively impacted in the future. The reason is that if this revenue source is not secured, City General Funds might be diverted to pay for these Fire funding needs, which might reduce the General Funds available to support Transit services.

Commission members agreed that they are in support of City services in general and especially the City's fire services and the transit program. Their concerns were about this particular proposal, the process and CACOT's role in relation to this particular funding proposal.

In conclusion, CACOT issued this consensus:

CACOT recognizes the potential fiscal impact this may have on the City budget, but it believes that it is inappropriate for CACOT to take a position on this issue.

IV. Status of Route Revisions

Ms. Rhoads is monitoring results of the route changes that went into effect in April. If it is necessary to make additional adjustments, she will contact the Commission sub-committee for their input. The route 3/4 pairing seems to be experiencing on-time performance issues in the afternoons. Commissioner Trelstad asked when passenger shelters along the old routes will be moved to new locations. Ms. Rhoads said they will be moved in the near future, after confirmation that CTS will stay with the April routes.

Commissioner Friedt expressed a "90%" satisfaction level with the April route revisions, especially with performance in the morning and is mostly satisfied with the performance in the afternoon.

Paul Morgan asked if the automatic changing of the bus electronic signs can be adjusted to display sooner than it does currently. He shared his observation that the April

route changes improved transfer opportunities between routes and have resulted in a more "relaxed" atmosphere for transfers at the Downtown Transit Center.

V. Information Sharing

Ms. Rhoads shared highlights from the Information Sharing Report regarding CTS on-time performance and transit ridership, including the recent Senior/Youth/Disabled survey.

Commissioner Carroll reported that Samaritan Health Services is developing expansion plans and has current and potential parking issues that could be alleviated if people were encouraged to use transit services. Ms. Rhoads will work with Commissioner Carroll to present information to Samaritan Health Services about an employee transit group pass program.

VI. Adjournment

Commissioner Trelstad made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Carroll seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, June 14, 2006, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room
Wednesday, July 12, 2006 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room
Wednesday, August 9, 2006 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room