

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

June 14, 2006

Members Present

Scott Carroll
Stephan Friedt
Bob Lowry, Chair
Brandon Trelstad
Lita Verts, Vice-Chair

Staff

Jon Katin, Public Works
Michelle Rhoads, Public Works
Lisa Namba, Public Works

Visitors

Trish Daniels, City Councilor

Absent

Emily Hagen, City Councilor
Robert E. Wilson

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of Minutes- May 10, 2006			Approved, as amended
III. CACOT/Visitor's Comments		X	Monroe Streetscape Project for July
IV. Status of Route Revisions	X	X	Additional information requested by CACOT
V. Information Sharing	X		
VI. Adjournment	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

Introductions of Commission members, staff and visitors were made. Mr. Katin introduced Lisa Namba as his successor.

II. Approval of Minutes - May 10, 2006

A correction was issued that Commissioner Wilson was present at the meeting.

Commissioners Friedt and Trelstad, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve the May 10, 2006 minutes, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor's Comments

Councilor Trish Daniels appeared at the Commission meeting to initiate a discussion of her and Councilor Charlie Tomlinson's proposal to make Monroe Avenue a more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly street. Steve Rogers and Jim Mitchell have provided input into the proposal, and more information and discussion will occur during the July CACOT meeting. In the interim, Councilor Daniels provided an introduction.

Councilors Daniels and Tomlison met with OSU Facilities Planning which suggested a collaboration whereby a corridor plan would be developed from 14th Street to 26th Street. Signals would be present to highlight to motorists that this is a pedestrian-friendly zone. There would be an intergovernmental agreement between the City and OSU, in which OSU would provide design costs for the corridor plan. The consultant has a July 1st deadline to provide conceptual information.

Councilor Daniels asked the Commission if there were any questions or comments in advance of the concept development. Commissioner Verts commented that the consultant should be wary of the City's general opposition to bulb outs. Commissioner Lowry said there are many heavy trucks serving businesses in the area which could damage bulb outs. Councilor Daniels said City staff suggested bulb outs. Commissioner Verts suggested that the City also look at traffic on 25th St. north of Monroe, which is experiencing increased truck traffic and congestion.

Commissioner Carroll stated that the OSU parking lot at 16th St. can be problematic for motorists and bicyclists, especially when pedestrians are emerging from behind the trees. Discussion ensued and one suggestion was that exits from this parking lot be posted as right turn only to help reduce cross traffic issues.

Ms. Rhoads said that as a multi-mode transportation user, her experience has been that motorists need to be considered as well as there are frequent, spontaneous interactions with bicyclists and pedestrians crossing at mid-block with little if any advance notice to motorists. Commissioner Carroll echoed that comment, saying pedestrians in the area often do not pay attention to traffic patterns. There was a

suggestion that it would be helpful to channel pedestrian traffic too, not just vehicles and bicycles.

Councilor Daniels will appear at the July Commission meeting along with a City staff member to further discuss the plan.

IV. Status of Route Revisions

Ms. Rhoads referred to a handout which showed the on-time performance averages for all routes for the last two years. The overall average is 96%. On-time performance is calculated by the departure times of buses from the Downtown Transit Center, and data is collected and analyzed for a one week period of each month. Since implementation of route revisions in April, on-time performance has increased overall.

The methodology for reporting on-time performance will change in the future due to implementation of the automated system, though during the transition over the next two or three months both methodologies will be employed for comparison. Copies of the on-time performance reports using the automatic system were distributed, and they indicate a lesser on-time performance rating than the manual system that has been used the past two years. Commissioner Friedt asked for an additional report separating the on-time performance of the AM shift from the PM shift; also for the report to be printed landscape instead of portrait as some of the information was missing from the side of the page.

Commissioner Verts said she believes that SW West Hills Rd. between Western Blvd. and SW 53rd St. is so narrow that she wonders if it is safe enough for CTS bus travel. Ms. Rhoads said that the Commission did consider moving the Route 3 off of West Hills during the most recent route review process, though not for that particular reason. She suggested that CACOT can reconsider this issue in the future as a body and make a recommendation regarding it, including consideration that the draft Transit Master Plan identifies West Hills as a Primary Transit Corridor. Chair Lowry said City staff should look into the configuration of the street.

Ms. Rhoads said from indications and comments she has received to date, it appears that the recent route revisions are working well and should be kept in place for the foreseeable future. Relocations of bus shelters will be looked into by staff. Chair Lowry asked for a consensus of the Commission as to maintaining the routes as is for the time being, and there was consensus to do so.

Chair Lowry asked Ms. Rhoads if the most efficient drivers can be placed on the routes which tend to have the most on-time performance problems on at least a temporary basis to see if higher performance is possible. Ms. Rhoads said Laidlaw sets the drivers' schedules in accordance with the City's operating agreement with Laidlaw; but that it also provides that the City can require that specific drivers be assigned to or removed from specific routes. The City would need to present a good reason for a specific change and would need to provide at least two weeks advanced notice to Laidlaw. If such a test or permanent change were effected, valid data would probably not be available for at least two weeks, which is generally the minimum amount of time necessary for a driver to become an expert at operating that particular route.

Ms. Rhoads noted that the Philomath Connection bus route will need to be re-routed to operate outside the core OSU campus area by Fall 2006, in keeping with OSU's intra-campus transportation plans.

V. Information Sharing

- Commissioner Carroll and Ms. Rhoads are working with Samaritan Health Services, Inc. (SHS) to implement a CTS group pass program by July 1st. If implemented, the program would help alleviate the current parking congestion at Avery Square, the work site of many SHS employees. Avery Square and SHS's main campus are both on transit lines. As a regional employer, SHS employees may also be effectively served by the Linn-Benton Loop Transit System, operated by the City of Albany. Commissioners Trelstad, Friedt and Lowry, and Ms. Rhoads are advisory commission members of the Loop and can help facilitate discussions with that agency as well.
- Ms. Rhoads reported that the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) meeting is June 14th at 7:00p.m. at the Benton Plaza. CAMPO will propose a 20-year area transportation plan. This is required of all municipalities which have a population that exceeds 50,000.
- Mr. Katin said the acquisition of an operations and maintenance facility is still in the preliminary stages. A consultant, Pivot Architecture, has been retained to look for potential partners to the City on the project, determine potential partners' space needs and the location of the best potential site. A conceptual design of the three most

desirable locations will be crafted. Corvallis Transit System (CTS), OSU Shuttle, 509J, Benton County Public Works, Corvallis Public Works, Dial-A-Bus, Corvallis Parks & Rec and the OSU Motor Pool have all been approached as potential partners. The City has requested a federal earmark for capital funding through its congressional elected officials.

- Commissioner Friedt asked when the automatic system real time route information will be available over the internet. Mr. Katin said it is unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future. Friedt also asked if the wayside signs for the auto announce system have been fixed. He noticed a delay in the time it takes the system to acknowledge a bus that is approaching or has passed the wayside signs. Mr. Katin said the system still has some glitches and he will continue to work with the contractor. Mr. Katin reminded the Commission that CTS is a beta test site and is being asked to be patient with the testing of the automatic information system. In return, CTS is receiving many more equipment features and services than what has been paid for.

VI. Adjournment

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

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, July 12, 2006, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room
Wednesday, August 9, 2006, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2006, 8:15 a.m., Madison Avenue Meeting Room