

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

June 8, 2005

Members Present

Bob Lowry, Chair
Brandon Trelstad
Lita Verts, Vice-Chair
Bjorn Warloe
Robert E. Wilson

Staff

Jon Katin, Public Works
Michelle Rhoads, Public Works

Visitors

Paul Morgan

Absent

Scott Carroll
Emily Hagen, City Councilor
Robert Straus, ASOSU

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Infor- mation Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of Minutes- May 11, 2005			Approved.
III. CACOT/Visitor's Comments		X	
IV. Draft Policy on Parameters for Restricting Services to Passengers		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- May 11, 2005

Commissioners Verts and Warloe, respectively, moved and seconded that the Commission approve the May 11, 2005 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor's Comments

Michelle Rhoads reported she received eight phone calls from residents of Stoneybrook Assisted Living requesting transportation services. Rhoads explained to callers CTS

welcomes requests from riders but in order to accommodate Stoneybrook with on-site pickups and drop-offs, service would need to be cut from present routes to stay on schedule. Bob Wilson suggested staff prepare a draft of a reply for the callers which outlines the configurations of current routes. The Commission would then discuss the draft. Lita Verts said in lieu of buses stopping at Stoneybrook's front entrance, buses could stop at the end of the driveway on County Club Drive. Another option could be creating a bus stop on the west side of Stoneybrook. These two options would eliminate the need for buses to enter Stoneybrook's grounds.

Paul Morgan said the flyers posted at the Intermodal Mall stating the ordinance prohibiting smoking has had a positive effect. He suggested posting the ordinance on both sides of the bus shelter windows for more visibility.

Bob Lowry asked for suggestions on better informing OSU students in the fall that they are eligible to ride CTS under the pre-payment plan. Michelle Rhoads said CTS advertises in the OSU mail-out newsletter *Connections*. In that same mail-out issue, there will also be an article about the ASOSU group-pass program including excerpts from an interview with Jon Katin. CTS will also advertise in the annual calendar provided to OSU students. CTS plans to advertise in OSU's student newspaper *The Barometer* the beginning of each term. Flyers will be provided to OSU staff to include in orientation packets given to each new student. Brandon Trelstad said he may be writing a regular column in *The Barometer* regarding sustainability, and he may be able to include information about transit.

IV. Draft Policy on Parameters for Restricting Services to Passengers

The need to revisit current CTS policy came about as a result of verbal complaints directed against a particular passenger who seems to be using CTS as a social opportunity to meet young women. There has been no written or formal complaints levied against this passenger. Several young women have reported the passenger's unwanted advances to CTS drivers; the drivers in turn reported the incidents to Michelle Rhoads.

Rhoads requested information from Lane Transit District and Salem Area Mass Transit District on their policies for restricting services to passengers. CTS has a policy titled "Corvallis Transit System Code of Conduct and Implementing Procedures", last revised August, 1996, which was distributed to Commission members. Rhoads compared Salem and Lane's policies to the policies of CTS and found consistency among the three policies regarding expectations for passenger

behavior. The policies state that action is taken when physical contact occurs or a complaint is filed. CTS policy states if drivers observe any imminent harm to themselves or passengers, the drivers are to notify dispatch who in turn notify 911.

Rhoads contacted Corvallis Police Department and offered to contact the young man's family but was referred to the City Attorney's office. The following are excerpts from the City Attorney's response:

"...What we need is a strategy to persuade someone to change behavior that we probably cannot prohibit, rather than a policy that tries to regulate it....I'm not sure that there is a way to force this passenger to behave differently that won't run afoul of either constitutional or ADA protections... As described, the behavior doesn't seem like stalking or any other crime. I don't want to seem to be insensitive to people's concerns about bad behavior. And I wouldn't like being on the receiving end of this person acting out, but on its face I'm not sure what a policy would be regulating, other than behavior which is probably protected in one form or another..."

Rhoads reiterated that unless passengers are willing to file a formal complaint, there is nothing Rhoads can do. Without physical contact or imminent danger, CTS drivers cannot call dispatch. The City's policy is uniform throughout the City, this is not just the policy of CTS. Drivers have taken the lead in trying to modify the offending passenger's behavior by engaging the passenger in conversation in the hopes of distracting him.

Paul Morgan said the young man in question is known to contact young women unsolicited throughout the City. Mr. Morgan has had previous experience dealing with the young man at the City Library and said he thinks the young man could be a danger to the community.

Bob Lowry said that Human Services should be notified about this young man in an effort to get him some help. Rhoads said if the City Attorney's Office agrees, she will call an agency which may be of help. Rhoads said she will review current CTS policies with the CTS drivers at their next meeting.

Commission members were asked to review current CTS policies and contact Rhoads with any comments. Bob Lowry asked Rhoads to have the City Attorney's Office review the policies. It was agreed to put this item on the agenda for the July CACOT

meeting.

V. Information Sharing

Rhoads reported that Laidlaw is moving its facilities to a site east of the Willamette River on Highway 34 due to the end of their property lease on NW 9th St. The site is nearly three miles from the Van Buren Bridge. Jon Katin said there will be a slight increase in fuel costs to CTS due to the additional travel distances.

Rhoads said there was a new ridership record for the month of May. Assuming the ridership pattern continues through June 30, there will be a new annual ridership record.

Drivers reported that the change in transfer wait time to three minutes has helped on-time performance, especially in the afternoon when schedules are more difficult to keep. Two complaints about the reduction in wait time have been recorded. One of the complaints happened before the change went into effect.

On-time performance was 94% for May. Paul Morgan said Route 2 is consistently not on-time in the afternoons. Rhoads said construction at several points along 9th Street and Highway 99 probably contributed to the lateness during the past month.

Bob Lowry suggested posting signs in the bus shelters at the Intermodal Mall warning of possible delays due to construction along particular routes. Rhoads said some construction projects are undertaken without advance notice to CTS. If there are delays in traffic due to road work being done by Benton County or the City, flaggers have been instructed to waive through CTS buses as quickly as possible. The wayside signs at the Intermodal Mall, as part of the upcoming auto announce system, will instruct passengers about arrival and departure times.

Rhoads said any changes to the current route schedule should be ready before the fall, in time for the printing of the new schedules.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, July 13, 2005, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, August 10, 2005 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2005 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D