

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

March 12, 2003

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chair
Bob Lowry
Janon Rogers
Lita Verts
Robert E. Wilson
Justin Roach, Councilor

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Jim Mitchell, Public Works
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Stewart Wershow, City Council

Members Absent, Unexcused

Scott Carroll

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - February 12, 2003			Accepted as revised
CACOT Member Resignation	X		
Schedule/Map Redesign Project		X	
Service Reduction Plan		X	
CACOT - Sunset Review			Recommended reestablishing the Commission
May/April CACOT Meetings			May CACOT meeting scheduled for May 21 and Special CACOT meeting tentatively scheduled for April 16
Ridership Report	X		
OSU 2003 Survey Results	X		
Intermodal Mall - Grand Opening	X		
ASOSU Group Pass Program	X		
Holiday Trolley	X		
City 2003 Oregon Legislature - Request for Legislation for "In-Lieu of Taxes" and Senior/Disabled Transportation Funds	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 12, 2003

The minutes were accepted as revised.

II. CACOT MEMBER RESIGNATION

Commissioner Janon Rogers announced that she is resigning from the Commission because she and her family are moving out of Corvallis. Commission members and staff thanked Ms. Rogers for her service to Corvallis.

III. SCHEDULE/MAP REDESIGN PROJECT

Because of the work being done to look at service reduction options, no additional work has been done on this project. Any service reductions will be reflected in the new transit users' guide. A request for design and printing proposals will be developed so that the transit users' guide can move forward when the maps and schedules are available.

IV. SERVICE REDUCTION PLAN

Staff announced that the firm of Nelson/Nygaard has been hired to assist with developing options to address the service reduction recommended by the City's Budget Commission. Jarrett Walker, a partner in the firm, was specifically engaged because of his prior involvement with the draft Transit Master Plan and his knowledge of the existing route structure and schedule. Two possible scenarios have already been discussed. One would reduce Saturday hours significantly and the other would reduce weekday frequency in some areas and eliminate service in some areas.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the consultant's recommendation(s) would be reviewed by CACOT at their April 9 meeting and that the public would be invited to review the recommendation(s) at a public forum on April 16. The target date to implement the service reduction is July 7.

V. CACOT - SUNSET REVIEW

Staff provided information regarding the City's ordinance regarding review of each of the City's boards and commissions. A list of Commission activities since the last review four years ago and those activities expected to be addressed by the Commission in the future was distributed. Following discussion, **the Commission recommended** that it be reestablished for an additional four years to allow it to continue with its anticipated and ongoing activities.

VI. MAY AND SPECIAL APRIL CACOT MEETINGS

The regular May CACOT meeting was moved to May 21 because of

several members being unavailable for the regular meeting day, May 14.

A special CACOT meeting was tentatively scheduled for April to hold a public forum to receive public input on the possible service reduction options.

VII. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Reports (fixed route and Philomath)

The February ridership reports for CTS and Philomath were presented. CTS February ridership was 45,760, compared to 2002's February ridership of 48,690. CTS is continuing to see a decline in ridership attributable to the School District's change in bell times of approximately 3,000 rides per month. Philomath ridership is continuing to see monthly increases. The Dial-A-Bus report was not received in time to prepare the monthly CACOT summary. Information specifically regarding ridership on the revised Peak Service will be available at the next CACOT meeting.

B. OSU Survey Results

Staff provided Commission members with the results of the 2003 on-board OSU survey, as well as the results for the last 10 years. This year's survey shows that OSU faculty, staff and students comprise 43.33 percent of CTS's ridership and 60.59 percent of the Philomath Connection ridership. OSU students alone make up 38.6 percent on CTS and 43.28 percent on the Philomath Connection.

The survey results indicate which routes are heavily used by faculty, staff, and students, and others. The results are shared with ASOSU and OSU for their information and support of the transit group pass programs. They are also used to guide transit service decisions.

C. Intermodal Mall - Grand Opening

The grand opening of the Intermodal Mall was held on February 24. Congresswoman Darlene Hooley and Federal Transit Administrator Jennifer Dorn, the Federal Transit Administrator for Region X, Rick Krochalis, Mayor Berg, City Councilors, County Commissioners, Richard Krikava from Senator Smith's Portland office, Corvallis Ambassadors, CACOT members, City staff and others were in attendance. Mayor Berg, Congresswoman Hooley, FTA Administrator Dorn, and the City's Project Manager, Jon Katin, offered remarks

during a brief ceremony at the Mall. Following the ribbon cutting, guests were invited to coffee and refreshments at the Library. Guests then toured Corvallis on the City's trolley. The event was deemed a success.

D. ASOSU Group Pass Program

Presentation of the CTS budget and group pass proposal was made to the student fees committee on Friday, February 21. The City asked for a 5-cent increase in the quarterly fee from \$1.75 to \$1.80 to cover increased transit costs related to the Laidlaw contract and fuel and also added a fee for summer term. The student fees committee has recommended approval of the City's proposal. The proposal will now be heard by the full undergraduate senate and graduate senate on April 8.

E. Holiday Trolley

The holiday trolley subcommittee met to evaluate the 2002 holiday trolley service and discuss this year's service. They have a couple suggestions regarding the brochure map and signage. Additional information regarding ridership by day and hour of operation was provided to the subcommittee for their continuing review. The subcommittee of Craig Anderson and Bob Lowry will provide their recommendations at a future CACOT meeting.

F. 2003 Oregon Legislative Session

Two bills have been drafted to date which are of particular impact to transit during this year's Legislative session. A request has been sent by the Oregon Transit Association (OTA) to Legislative Counsel to draft the legislation that would expand the "in lieu of taxes" statute to include municipalities as agencies that would receive funding from state agencies receiving transit service. The assessment is based upon state payroll in the service area. Currently the statutes only cover transportation districts and mass transit districts. The bill would create equality among all the state's public transit providers. Copies will be provided to CACOT members as soon as the bill is introduced. It will take a statewide effort by Oregon municipalities to get the legislation passed. Corvallis and Bend would be major recipients, as well as Albany, Pendleton, Philomath, Woodburn, and others. The City's Legislative Committee is aware of the request.

Senate Bill 862 passed both houses and has impacts for area

senior/disabled transportation funding. This bill "embargos" cigarette tax funds for the April-June 2003 quarter until the May 15 financial forecast is issued. If the economic and revenue forecast is \$150,000,000 below the forecast that was released on February 28, the funds will be released to cities, counties and special transportation governing bodies. The City's paratransit provider, Dial-A-Bus, receives the majority of its operating funds through the State's Special Transportation Fund.

City Councilor Wershow also noted that a bill had been introduced that would require student votes on increases in student fees.

Staff will keep CACOT members informed of these bills, as well as others, that impact transit service.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, April 9, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wed., **April 16**, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conf. Rm. D (**tentative**)
Wednesday, **May 21**, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D