

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

July 14, 2003

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chair
Bob Lowry
Lita Verts
Bjorn Warloe
Robert E. Wilson

Absent, Excused

Scott Carroll

Staff

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

Visitors

See attached sign-in sheet
(several attendees, including two
CTS drivers, did not sign)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Public Forum - Proposed Route Changes		X	July 16 CACOT meeting

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. PUBLIC FORUM ON PROPOSED ROUTE REVISIONS

Chairman Anderson opened the public forum at 5:30 p.m. with a review of the purpose of the meeting, providing some background, and reviewing the meeting's agenda.

Public Works Director Rogers provided additional background. He noted that the City Council and Budget Commission had developed a list of prioritized cuts to City services that were to be implemented if the November 2002 levy did not pass. The levy did not pass, and staff proceeded to develop possible transit route and schedule reductions to be effective as early as July 1, 2003. A consulting firm that had conducted previous transit studies for Corvallis, Nelson/Nygaard, was hired to review the service and make recommendations. The report suggested reductions on routes that were the least productive.

In the spring it was learned that the City would receive more funding from the Federal Transit Administration than originally anticipated. The Council and Budget Commission agreed to restore the transit service cut. It was determined that the Nelson/Nygaard study would be the basis to review current service and possibly move service to those areas with a higher density and transit demand, i.e. South Corvallis.

Mr. Rogers described the proposed changes. The primary changes were to eliminate the current Route 2 and redesign it as an east-west loop in North Corvallis. Portions of the

Route 2 on 9th Street would be covered by another route. The new design eliminated service on 5th Street, but retained two-way service on 9th Street. Other minor adjustments were developed for Service Route B and Route 4. The adjustment to Route 2 provided the necessary service hours to expand service to South Corvallis and establish 30-minute service in many parts of South Corvallis, with one-hour service south to Midvale and Rivergreen where much new development is occurring.

The meeting was then opened for public questions and comments. Several audience members were concerned about the loss of service to 5th Street. One asked that service at least in one direction be maintained. Another noted that some people walk from 2nd Street to catch the bus on 5th Street and a walk to 9th Street would not be a viable option for them. Questions were also asked about whether or not the redesigned Route 2 would travel into Hewlett-Packard (H-P) as it does now. In response to a question, it was noted that Route 2 typically carries about 150 riders per week, which is the lowest of any route and that ridership to H-P is particularly low.

A question was also asked about the planned implementation date for the changes. It is hoped that any changes that are made will be implemented by the time that OSU classes start. It would be better to start by the time that Corvallis public schools start but that is not likely.

Staff noted that it would be ideal to retain the service on 5th Street and Route 2 as it currently operates and expand service to South Corvallis, but funding is not available. Concerns were raised about connections along the redesigned Route 2 to other routes at specified transfer points.

In response to a question about the current peak route service to South Corvallis and Witham Hill, it was stated that this service would be eliminated. Concern was expressed for the times that some of the routes start to accommodate transfers to other routes. This was particularly important to the Route B users.

One suggestion was made to move the Route 4 to 5th Street northbound while retaining two-way service on 9th Street with the Route B.

Several audience members complimented the transit service and in particular the caring attitude of the drivers for their elderly customers.

Chairman Anderson thanked the audience members for coming to the meeting and providing their comments. He noted that the Commission would be meeting again on Wednesday morning, July 16, to hear additional comments and discuss the comments from the public forum.

Following the close of the formal meeting, audience members were invited to stay and talk with Commission members and staff at the two chart-pack stations set up in the room. A copy of the chart-pack information is attached.

II. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, July 16, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

Wednesday, August 13, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D