

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

July 16, 2003

Members Present

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

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Michelle Rhoads, Public Works

Visitor

Paul W. Morgan

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - June 11, 2003			Accepted as presented
School District Bell Times		X	Staff will report in the future
Proposed Route Revisions		X	Continued to August meeting
Ridership Report	X		
Holiday Trolley		X	Continued to August meeting
OSU/ASOSU Group Pass Programs	X		
Oregon Legislature	X		
daVinci Days Service - July 19 and 20			
Benton County Fair Shuttle - July 29 - August 2	X		
Philomath Connection	X		
Intermodal Mall (aka Transit Center) Flower Baskets and Public Phone	X		
Summer CTS Newsletter	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 11, 2003

The minutes were accepted as written.

II. CORVALLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 509J

Commissioner Lowry asked whether or not the School District bell times would match the transit schedule to allow middle and high school students to ride as they have prior to this year. Transit Manager Barrett indicated that she had met with a School District representative, Fred Wright, regarding this and other subjects and has requested a second meeting. No response has been received. Staff will pursue again.

III. PROPOSED ROUTE REVISIONS

Chairman Anderson briefly reviewed the Monday, July 14, public forum on the proposed route and schedule changes. Staff provided information from the forum, including a printed copy of the information that was developed on chart packs following the formal meeting. Copies of all e-mails received prior to the CACOT meeting were also distributed.

Visitor Paul Morgan felt that the Monday meeting was very positive. He asked that in the future there be more time between the public forum and the Advisory Commission's meeting to be able to respond to the comments made at the public forum. He was interested in the proposed transfer points and how the times would match. He also suggested that possibly the route running on 9th Street could run every other hour on 5th Street. He understands that the City is faced with difficult budget decisions and that it might get worse. He supports community transit and would like to see more for the good of the entire community and as a way to reduce energy consumption. One of the three reasons that he moved to Corvallis was because of the transit system. He also said that he appreciated the opportunity to participate in the decision process.

Generally the comments from the public forum were about the loss of service to 5th Street and the impact it would have on those living on 5th Street, particularly those with mobility issues, and those who currently walk from 2nd Street to catch the bus on 5th Street. Also, comments were expressed about the connection to Hewlett-Packard. Other issues related to how the transfers would be made between routes to get people to most of the places that are currently served and included a discussion about the start times of some routes to make those connections.

Following a motion, second and additional discussion, Commissioner Carroll made a motion to implement the proposed route and schedule changes as originally proposed and shown on the map. The motion died for lack of a second. Staff indicated that one of the recommendations that was considered was moving the Route 4 northbound onto 5th Street instead of 9th Street. Following additional discussion, staff was directed to determine the feasibility of moving the Route 4 to 5th Street outbound/northbound. Staff will also be reviewing the start times of some routes and the specific time points to determine the viability of proposed transfer points.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Reports (CTS fixed route and Philomath)

The June ridership reports for CTS and Philomath were presented. CTS June ridership was 35,523, compared to 2002's June ridership of 36,546. The annual ridership was 502,420 compared to last year's record ridership of 525,021. The loss in ridership is attributed to the change of bell times at the Corvallis middle and high schools. Philomath ridership was presented. It showed a slight increase from last year's total of 12,547 to this year's total of 13,414. It was slightly less than the first year's total of 14,304. Overall, Philomath seems pleased with the ridership. No ridership report was available for Dial-A-Bus.

B. Holiday Trolley

The Holiday Trolley subcommittee has not had an opportunity to meet since the last meeting. They will report at the August meeting. Staff suggested that the major change from prior years' efforts be to pursue the property owners of the shopping centers where there has not been support from the local merchants, i.e. Rite Aid; Bed, Bath, and Beyond; Fred Meyer; and Plaza 9.

C. ASOSU/OSU Group Pass Program

The agreement for the 2003-04 group pass program for OSU faculty and staff and ASOSU for students has been signed by all parties. For the first time, the agreement will run through September 30, 2004 since it contains a provision for OSU students to compensate the City for summer term ridership.

D. 2003 Oregon Legislature

Some decisions regarding funding for special transportation (senior/disabled) are still pending at the Legislature. Also, revenue sharing for cities is not resolved and may affect the Albany Transit System and the Linn-Benton Loop.

One good news item regarding state funding is that the Oregon Department of Transportation's Director has indicated that the State will begin dedicating funds to assist Oregon's fixed route transit providers in fleet replacement purchases. This is a major step in getting the state to recognize its responsibility to maintain the state's bus fleet much as it maintains the state's roadways at good or better condition. The initial amount is small but will be used to provide the 20-percent local match for federal

transit capital dollars for some agencies.

E. daVinci Days Service - July 19 and 20

Corvallis Transit System will operate extended hours during daVinci Days weekend, July 19 and 20. Buses will begin at their regular Saturday start time both Saturday and Sunday (approximately 9:45 a.m.) and continue through their regular weekday ending schedule, approximately 7:25 p.m. Staff has been working with daVinci Days staff to coordinate and promote this service and the daVinci Days shuttle service.

F. Benton County Fair Shuttle - July 29 - August 2

The City will again operate the free shuttle service for this year's Benton County Fair. Evanite Fiber Corporation will sponsor a portion of the shuttle costs, with Benton County and the City equally sharing the remaining costs. The service will operate from 12 noon to 11:00 p.m. each day of the fair, with shuttle stops at OSU, Reser Stadium parking lot, downtown Corvallis, Kings and Monroe and the Fairgrounds.

G. Philomath Connection

Staff has met with City of Philomath staff to develop the contract between Corvallis and Philomath for continuation of the Philomath Connection service through the Corvallis-Laidlaw contract. The relationship has changed because of the new federal urban transit funding. Corvallis is the grant recipient, and Philomath will provide the 50-percent local match for the operations and maintenance of the Philomath Connection. Corvallis staff is also providing information to Philomath staff regarding the requirements for transit stops within Philomath.

I. Summer CTS Newsletter

The Summer CTS newsletter was distributed. The newsletter covers such items as: daVinci Days service, Benton County Fair shuttle, Designated Stop program, OSU Group Pass program, a reminder about the location of public restrooms, a reminder about construction season, and a reminder about not smoking in or near bus shelters.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, August 13, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, September 10, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, October 8, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D