

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

November 12, 2003

Members Present

Bob Lowry, Vice-Chair
Lita Verts
Bjorn Warloe
Robert E. Wilson
Stewart Wershow, City Council

Members Absent, Unexcused

Scott Carroll

Staff

Jon Katin, Public Works
Michelle Rhoads, Public Works

Members Absent, Excused

Craig Anderson, Chair

Visitors

Paul W. Morgan
Linda Elder, Dial-A-Bus

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - October 8, 2003			Approved as submitted
Visitor Comments	X		
Bus Maintenance Incident		X	Staff will investigate the incident and report to CACOT
Discussion on the Route System		X	CACOT will hold special meeting
Transportation Alternatives Funding Task Force	X		
Advertising on Buses	X		
Revised Routes & Bus Schedules		X	Special CACOT meeting
Ridership Reports	X		
Try Transit Week	X		
Holiday Trolley & Parade	X		
Park & Rides	X		
Bus Priority with Traffic Signals	X		
Capital Improvement Program	X		
Tri-County Special Transportation Project	X		
OSU Master Plan	X		
New CAMPO Director	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 8, 2003

Wilson made a motion to approve the October 8, 2003 minutes as submitted. Verts seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/VISITOR COMMENTS

Visitor Paul Morgan asked about the process of assigning designated stops for the route system. Rhoads replied that there is still time for input. Morgan asked that pedestrian access to the stops be considered during the process.

Morgan also described a situation that occurred the previous Friday morning with one of the Route 5 buses. There was a mechanical problem and some passengers boarding at Timberhill chose to take the Route 1 bus due to the delay. Apparently this created a frustrating and uncomfortable experience for some passengers. Concern was expressed about the maintenance performed on buses. CACOT asked Rhoads to investigate the situation and report back during the next meeting.

There was discussion about the ongoing challenge of the current route system, specifically balancing the sometimes competing interests of covering the maximum geographic area and achieving satisfactory on-time performance. There was consensus that this discussion could lead to policy and funding decisions. Because the proposed route revisions and new transit materials are to go into effect in early January 2004, it was agreed that CACOT would reassess this issue in a special meeting. Staff will make meeting arrangements and send notification.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Transportation Alternatives Funding Task Force (TAFT)

Wilson reported that one of TAFT's discussion points is whether the Corvallis Transit System is or should be a social service or a business. TAFT continues to gather data on all of the City's transportation-related programs. They will review the information and conclusions, and then will issue recommendations on the programs, priorities, and funding opportunities. Verts attended the last TAFT meeting and provided testimony on the importance of having an effective transit system.

Wershow noted that approximately \$250,000 of Federal Highway transportation funds that used to go directly to the City for street projects will now go to the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) for distribution on MPO area projects. A concern is that it appears that CAMPO's vision for the future use of these funds is focused

on development, while the City's past focus and use of those funds has been on preservation.

The next TAFT meeting is 5:00 p.m. November 19, in the Cline Room at the Senior Center on Tyler Ave. The December meeting is 5:00 p.m. December 17, in the Public Library.

B. Advertising on Buses

The City is pursuing the implementation of advertising on buses to raise revenue for the transit system. More information is being collected, and the proposal is going before the City Council's Urban Services Committee on November 18.

C. Revised Routes & Bus Schedules

The City issued a Request for Proposals for the design of the new transit materials. Proposals from interested vendors are due November 18.

D. Ridership Reports

Rhoads distributed ridership reports for CTS and Philomath. CTS achieved a new monthly ridership record in October: 54,265 - an increase of 13 over the previous record set in October 2001. Philomath achieved its 3rd highest monthly ridership at 1,420. ADA paratransit ridership will be reported at a later date. Albany Transit and the Linn-Benton Loop also experienced record ridership in October.

E. Try Transit Week

Ridership during Try Transit Week increased slightly over last year's event ridership: 12,427 compared with 12,195. Sixty-six (66) prizes were awarded to transit riders as part of the event promotion. Thirty (30) businesses located along the routes donated the prizes. A list of the sponsoring businesses and the prizes was shared with CACOT. Compliments were received regarding the "thank you for riding transit" reception held at the Intermodal Mall the morning of October 8.

It was noted that the commencement of OSU and LBCC classes and the Try Transit Week promotion likely magnified the problems of late routes during the month of October.

F. Holiday Trolley & Parade

Planning for the event continues, and the Trolley is signed up for the November 28 Community Holiday Parade. Rhoads

requested a volunteer to play "Downtown Gingerbear" during the kick-off event beginning at 11:30 a.m. the same day.

G. Park & Rides

Rhoads thanked Lowry for developing a list of potential park and ride sites for the transit system. Staff will follow up on contacting property owners and implementing a program.

H. Bus Priority with Traffic Signals

The system will be activated in December.

I. Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Update

The CIP Commission will meet 7:00 p.m. November 12, the same day as this CACOT meeting. The meeting will be held in Fire Station One.

J. Tri-County Special Transportation Project Update

The Linn, Benton, and Lincoln boards of commissioners have directed the Cascades West Council of Governments to enter into discussion with the Oregon Department of Human Services to develop a Medicaid medical transportation brokerage for the tri-county area.

K. OSU Master Plan

Staff will inform CACOT members of opportunities to provide input on the OSU Master Plan as it is processed by the City's Planning Commission. The plan is in a 30-day comment period.

L. New CAMPO Director

November 17 will be the first day for Ali Bonakdar's new role as the Director of the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO).

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Verts seconded the motion. By consensus the meeting adjourned.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, November 12, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, December 10, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, January 14, 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D