

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
MINUTES**

March 13, 2002

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chair  
Bob Lowry  
Janon Rogers  
Lita Verts  
Stewart Wershow, Councilor

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works  
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Linda Elder, Dial-A-Bus

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - February 13			Accepted as written
Ridership Report (attached)	X		
OSU Survey Results	X		
Transit District Formation	X		
Intermodal Mall - Status	X		
Future ODOT/FTA Transit Funding	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission	X		
CACOT Resignations	X		

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 13, 2002**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

**II. VISITOR COMMENTS**

Linda Elder, Dial-A-Bus Manager, provided an update on Dial-A-Bus operations. She indicated that Dial-A-Bus is pursuing the purchase of dispatch/scheduling software. Dial-A-Bus recently began a fourth paid-driver route to serve the needs of those who travel to and from work on a regular schedule. The fourth route was necessary because of State driver requirements for transporting clients who receive federal transportation assistance. Ms. Elder indicated that there are approximately 30 Dial-A-Bus volunteers, including drivers and dispatchers.

**III. INFORMATION SHARING**

**A. Ridership Reports (fixed, paratransit, Philomath)**

The February ridership reports were presented. CTS provided 47,087 rides during February. This represents the highest

February ridership in the history of the system. The Philomath report showed 1,208 rides provided in February. The Dial-A-Bus ridership was also presented.

#### **B. OSU Survey Results/ASOSU & OSU Group Pass Program**

The results of this year's Oregon State University (OSU) survey were distributed. The survey indicates that 41.43 percent of total CTS ridership is OSU faculty, staff, and students. OSU students make up 36.39 percent of CTS ridership. (See attached survey results.)

Based upon increased student ridership and CTS operating costs since the last increase in 2000, staff is requesting that OSU students increase their incidental fee by \$.05 per student per quarter (\$1.70 to \$1.75 fall, winter and spring terms). The proposed increase was presented to the ASOSU budget committee during an informal presentation. The committee understood the need for the increase and supported it. An enhancement package for a bus wrap was also presented, and students suggested various alternatives for funding the bus wrap. The 2002-03 proposal will be presented to the ASOSU Student Fees Committee at the beginning of spring term. Staff will send a letter to OSU in the near future for the 2002-03 faculty/staff group pass program.

#### **C. Transit District Formation - Status Report**

Public Works Director Rogers stated that the City Council would be holding a work session on Monday, March 18, to discuss the proposed transit district formation. Mr. Rogers reviewed the work session agenda. One of the items to be discussed is the possibility of having a district with varying tax rates and service levels. It appears that this is an option. The Council would also receive a report on the tri-county, special transportation project that has been initiated for senior and disabled transportation in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties. The Council will also discuss how to proceed with the district formation matter and whether or not the Council is the appropriate agency to take the lead.

#### **D. Intermodal Mall - Status Report**

Staff noted that the lighting plan had been reviewed and recommended to the City Council by the Urban Services Committee. The Council approved the plan. The Urban

Services Committee discussed the possibility of the designated operator restroom becoming a public restroom. Staff will present information to Committee at a future date regarding this proposal. It was noted that such a decision would have significant increased costs and operational impacts.

Staff is expecting final plans and specifications for bid documents in the near future. The project should be out to bid and construction expected to begin this spring with completion by this fall.

#### **E. Future ODOT/FTA Transit Funding**

##### ODOT

Staff attended an ODOT-sponsored summit held to discuss the distribution of the federal small city/rural transit funds which are provided to the state for distribution (Section 5311). ODOT recommended and transit providers agreed to hold Section 5311 recipients harmless during 2002-03, i.e. within a 10-percent spread from 2001-02 funding levels. The decision provides sufficient time for a solution to be developed to address the inequities in the current distribution formula for FY 2003-04.

##### Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

As a result of the anticipated designation of the Corvallis area as an "urbanized area" (UZ) in the near future, the area within the UZ will become eligible for the federal transit urban funding (§ 5307) in federal fiscal year 2003. It is projected that the UZ boundary will include portions of Corvallis and Philomath. The federal transit funding amount should increase from the current \$143,000 (§ 5311) to an estimated \$400,000. Along with the eligibility for increased funding comes increased planning, grant and reporting requirements which will require additional administrative resources. The § 5307 funds are available for capital, as well as operating expenses. Eligible operating expenses require a 50-percent local match and capital expenses require a 20-percent local match.

#### **F. Linn-Benton Loop Commission - March Special Meeting**

Staff reported on the recent Loop Commission meeting. It was noted that the Loop is projected to have a budget shortfall because of a variety of circumstances, including unexpected bus maintenance and personnel expenses. The Loop

will be cutting the last run of the day in the near future to address this year's budget. If additional revenue is not forthcoming for 2002-03, two to three other runs will need to be cut. OSU has been approached to assist in paying for the LBCC group pass program because of the number of OSU students taking classes at LBCC and the dual-enrollment program.

#### **G. CACOT Resignations**

Chairman Anderson reported that Dan Preller has resigned from the Commission. His job responsibilities at Good Samaritan Hospital have changed, and he is not able to continue his service on the Commission. Mayor Berg has contacted the Hospital to request that they recommend someone for the Commission since they are a major destination for the service. Staff also reported that Jeff Barricks has indicated that he can no longer continue to serve because of personal and health reasons. A downtown business person will be sought to replace Mr. Barricks.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

#### Future Meetings:

Wednesday, May 8, 7:30 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D (?)  
Wednesday, June 12, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D  
Wednesday, July 10, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D