

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
MINUTES**

January 10, 2001

Members Present

Bob Lowry, Vice Chair  
Dan Preller  
Lita Verts  
Stewart Wershow, Councilor

Absent - Excused

Craig Anderson  
Caron Johnson

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works  
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

George Blocker, Open Door  
Linda Elder, Dial-A-Bus

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - December 13, 2000			Accepted as presented
Dial-A-Bus Report	X		
Transit Business Plan		X	
20-Year Celebration			Delayed to Fall 2001
Ridership Report	X		
Holiday Trolley	X		
OSU Ridership Survey	X		
Peak Route Service	X		
Annual City Survey Results	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission	X		

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 13, 2000**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**II. DIAL-A-BUS REPORT**

Linda Elder, Dial-A-Bus Manager, reported that Dial-A-Bus

expanded its operating hours effective November 24. Dial-A-Bus now operates Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The service has been heavily promoted and another marketing effort will begin soon. Rides can be scheduled one to seven days in advance. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The service is funded through the last Legislature's action to improve public transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities. The new funding is for the 2-year biennium. Dial-A-Bus has two mini vans and several larger vehicles that have wheelchair lifts. They expect to add another wheelchair lift-equipped mini van in the near future. The Catholic Church is allowing Dial-A-Bus to park their larger vehicles in the church parking lot during weekdays.

### **III. TRANSIT BUSINESS PLAN**

Steve Rogers reported that City departments have been developing business plans for City services. The plans include existing and desired services, possible funding sources, and suggest ways to meet the need during the next seven years. The plans will be presented to the City's Budget Commission at their January 30 meeting. Since CACOT will not be meeting until after that date, Mr. Rogers wanted to share some of the information in the transit business plan. He indicated that one of the options being suggested to the Budget Commission and City Council for addressing transit's needs is to form a transit district. This option is being suggested because of the projected City revenue shortfall. The Budget Commission and City Council will be looking at several alternatives. A transit district would need to be voted on by the public if the Budget Commission and City Council wish to pursue the district option.

The biggest benefit of a transit district is that the City will be eligible to receive "in-lieu of property taxes" state funding to support public transportation. (The payment is based upon a percentage of state payroll within the district boundary.) All transit districts in the state receive this funding. The City proposed language to revise the Oregon Revised Statutes several sessions ago that would have made this funding available to the City, but the legislation did not go through the process. The business plan anticipates that the transit district boundary would be the same as the Corvallis city limits.

#### **IV. 20-YEAR CELEBRATION**

Staff suggested that because of current workload and other transit priorities, the 20-year celebration be delayed until the fall and possibly coincide with Try Transit Week. Commissioners agreed to postpone this activity to provide adequate time to prepare for the event.

#### **V. INFORMATION SHARING**

##### **A. Ridership Report (Fixed-Route and Philomath)**

The December ridership report was provided to the Commission. December ridership was 35,138, a decrease of about 2,000 from the previous year's December ridership. The decrease may be attributable to a longer OSU holiday break and possible longer elementary school break. Additionally, the trolley ran shorter days and hours this year. The OSU ridership survey will provide additional information regarding the impact of OSU on overall transit ridership.

In December the Philomath Connection served 1,065 riders, a slight reduction from November ridership of 1,170. Corvallis City staff has not had any contact with Philomath staff or City Councilors regarding their deliberations on transit service for 2001-01.

##### **B. Holiday Trolley**

The 2000 holiday trolley ran from December 13 through December 30 (no service December 25) and provided 2,302 rides. This represents approximately 23 rides per hour. City staff will be working with participating merchants and sponsor organizations to determine the level of service desired for 2001 and their willingness to increase their support.

##### **C. OSU Annual Ridership Survey**

The annual OSU ridership survey is scheduled for the period January 29 through February 10. The survey will provide a breakdown of OSU ridership by faculty, staff, and students, and other riders. It will also provide information regarding which routes are heavily traveled by OSU riders. The survey's results are shared with OSU administrative staff and ASOSU representatives. A similar survey will also be conducted on the Philomath Connection bus.

**D. Peak Route Service**

Staff noted that the Commission's recommendation that peak route service be added as soon as possible will be considered by the City Council at their January 16 meeting. It is recommended that the service be provided through the use of Council Reserves for the remainder of FY 2000-01.

**E. Annual City Survey Results**

Relevant portions of the 2000 City survey results were distributed to the Commission. The 1999 "comments" section was also distributed. Commission members briefly reviewed the information.

**F. Linn-Benton Loop Commission - December Meeting**

Commissioner Lowry reported on the December 14 Loop Commission meeting. He noted that year-to-date ridership is also up on the Loop, which is causing similar on-time issues. It takes more time to load and unload the higher ridership volume. Highway 34 traffic also causes a delay at peak times. The Loop is looking at replacing its primary bus and retiring the existing backup bus. The Loop Commission also addressed the issue of limited space on the bicycle rack. They adopted a formal policy of allowing the driver the discretion to permit bicycles on board the bus when it will not create a safety or capacity issue. It was noted that strollers and shopping carts are permitted on CTS buses. These items are to be stored out of the aisle.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.