

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

June 13, 2001

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chair
Jeff Barricks
Bob Lowry
Lita Verts
Stewart Wershow, Councilor

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller
Caron Johnson

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Mike Crauder
Patrick McKinley
Kay Eilers
Gene Newburgh

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - April 11, 2001			Accepted as presented
Presentation by Crescent Valley Representatives		X	Request will be considered as part of Transit Master Plan
Walnut Blvd. Route Revision			Approved route adjustment to use Walnut Blvd. and discontinue service on Jack London.
Ridership Report	X		
Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership	X		
2001-02 ODOT Operating Grant	X		
OSU Group Pass Program - Faculty/Staff	X		
ASOSU Group Pass Program	X		
Oregon Legislature - Transportation District Bill	X		
Intermodal Mall Project Status	X		
2001-02 Philomath Connection Service Contract	X		
2001-02 Paratransit Service	X		
2001-02 Linn-Benton Loop Service Contract	X		
Kids Summer Pass Program/Library Summer Reading Program			
Get There Another Way Week - Free Transit Day - May 26	X		
Regional Transit/TDM Meeting	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 11, 2001

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. PRESENTATION BY CRESCENT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL SITE COMMITTEE REPS

Representatives from the Crescent Valley High School Site Committee appeared before the Commission to request that the Commission consider extending bus service to Crescent Valley High School on a limited basis, Monday through Friday. The group presented information regarding the need for additional transportation to meet the needs of students to reach jobs, job training, attend classes at other schools, and participate in after-school programs. They provided background information and the results of a student survey. Additionally, they suggested specific times when bus service is most needed. They also noted a concern that students may be choosing to attend Corvallis High School because it is a more convenient location, thereby reducing the number of students attending Crescent Valley High School. There were also questions about the consolidation of the middle schools.

Commission members noted that a change in an existing route would affect all remaining routes because buses serve more than one route and are timed for transfers to serve the entire network. An extension of service would result in a cut of service in another location currently being served. It was noted that there are areas within Corvallis that are not served containing large numbers of low-income wage earners and that without additional resources, we will not be able to expand service.

It was suggested that the group remain active in the North Corvallis Plan, which addresses transportation needs, including transit. The group's suggestions will be considered as part of the update of the Draft Transit Master Plan in the near future. The group will be kept informed as the Commission reviews the master plan. The potential for the formation of a transportation district was also mentioned, and it was suggested that the group stay informed about that process.

III. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report (Fixed-Route and Philomath)

The monthly CTS ridership report was provided to the Commission (attached). May ridership was 46,208, which is the highest May ridership in CTS history. Ridership is on

track to reach another ridership record of a half million riders this year (FY 00-01). The Philomath ridership report was also provided, showing 1,498 rides provided in May. This was also a new, monthly ridership record for this system.

Staff is continuing to work with Dial-A-Bus, the City's paratransit provider to develop a ridership form for Commission members to review and provide guidance on what specific information they would like to see on that monthly ridership report.

B. Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership

Staff presented a copy of the results of a ridership survey conducted in April. The survey is based upon observation by the bus operator and the fare payment, which is discounted for seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities. (Copy attached.) The results show that approximately 21 percent of transit ridership is by youth under 18 years of age. Seniors comprise approximately 7.6 percent, and persons with disabilities make up another 9.44 percent. It was noted that approximately 85,200 rides are provided annually to seniors and persons with disabilities, which is more than all the rides provided by Dial-A-Bus in a year in Benton County.

C. 2001-02 ODOT Operating Grant Submitted

Staff reported that the application for the ODOT operating grant has been submitted. The source of funds is Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 dollars (small city/rural general public transit). The expected revenue is unknown because it depends on how many other small city/rural systems apply for funding in Oregon. It is anticipated that the revenue will remain at approximately \$114,000 but may increase slightly.

D. OSU Group Pass Program - Faculty/Staff

Staff reported that the 2001-02 contract to continue the OSU group pass program for faculty and staff was forwarded to OSU Vice President Rob Specter on May 24. No response has been received to date. Two phone calls have been made to the Vice President's office to request the status of the contract, with no response to date. Staff is preparing the promotional materials and the CTS Summer Newsletter which typically announces the status of the group pass programs. A response is needed within the next few days. The contract amount for faculty and staff to ride for the entire year is \$20,000. This is the same amount that they have paid for the last seven years.

E. ASOSU Group Pass Program

ASOSU President for 2001-01, Justin Geddes, has signed the ASOSU group pass program agreement for next year. Staff met with President Geddes last week to discuss the history of the program and the various promotional activities for OSU students. Staff also requested that an ASOSU representative be appointed to the Commission to provide input on transit service for students.

F. Oregon Legislature - Transportation District Bill

The transportation bill that had been presented at the Oregon Legislature this year that would allow the City Council to also be the Transportation District Board, if a transit district were to be formed, has died in committee. The legislation was opposed by Oregon State University and the Corvallis Area Chamber of Commerce. Therefore, if a transportation district is formed, it will have a separate elected board and management and administration functions. It was noted that there has been some dialogue between University staff, the Mayor, Council President, and City Manager regarding the transportation district issue.

G. Intermodal Mall Project Status

Chairman Anderson, Steve Rogers, Bernadette Barrett, and Jon Katin, a city engineer, reviewed the six proposals that were submitted in response to the Request for Proposals for Design and Preparation of Construction Specifications for the intermodal mall. Three firms were interviewed and one was selected as the most qualified. Staff will be negotiating with the firm in the near future, with design work to begin as soon as a contract is signed. The contractor will present three conceptual designs to the Commission for their consideration. The designs will also be the subject of a community forum. The Commission will be kept informed monthly as this project progresses.

H. 2001-02 Philomath Connection Service Contract

The City of Philomath has indicated its desire to continue to contract with the City of Corvallis to operate the Philomath Connection through the Corvallis contract with Laidlaw. The contract is being circulated for City staff review and will be forwarded to Philomath this month. It was noted that the rates paid to Laidlaw will be adjusted effective July 1, 2001, in accordance with the contract, which calls for an annual adjustment based upon the Consumers Price Index.

I. 2001-02 Paratransit Service

The contract between the Senior Citizens Council of Benton County, Inc., the City's paratransit provider, is being prepared and will be forwarded to Dial-A-Bus. The City is proposing to compensate Dial-A-Bus at the same rate as last year since the rates are based upon an average of 200 rides per month and the current average is around 100. The City's compensation is for those hours when the regular Dial-A-Bus service previously ended, which was 4:00 p.m. and the City's bus service ending time of 7:25 p.m. and for Saturday hours from 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The majority of Dial-A-Bus funding comes from the State's Special Transportation Fund for senior and disabled transportation. Staff will prepare a presentation on paratransit service for a future CACOT meeting.

J. 2001-02 Linn-Benton Loop Service Contract

The Loop contract between the City of Corvallis and the City of Albany has been forwarded to Albany for signature. The City of Albany administers the Loop service and participating agencies support the service through annual payments. The primary support comes from the City of Albany, City of Corvallis, and Linn-Benton Community College. Hewlett-Packard also contributes funds so that their employees can ride the system for free. Benton and Linn Counties contribute smaller amounts of funds to support the service. Oregon State University does not contribute to this service even though many of the riders are OSU students attending classes at LBCC or are enrolled in the dual-enrollment program. OSU has been approached on

an annual basis for support but to date has declined to participate.

K. Kids Summer Pass Program/Library Summer Reading Program

A Kids Summer Pass is again being offered this year which allows children from 6 to 18 to purchase a pass for \$12.95 and ride all summer. Additionally, CTS is again partnering with the Library's Summer Reading Program to provide bus passes to children who are involved in the reading program. Special passes have been designed and will be tracked to allow for reimbursement to the Transit Fund at the end of the program. Philomath will also be participating in the program this summer.

L. Get There Another Way Week - Free Transit Day - May 16

The City's Transportation Demand Management program sponsored this year's Get There Another Way Week, which encourages people to use a transportation alternative other than a single occupancy vehicle. This year a transportation fair was held in downtown Corvallis in conjunction with the Downtown Corvallis Association's Employee Transportation Program. Additionally, employees of employers actively involved in the City's Employee Transportation Coordinators' group were eligible for special incentives through drawings for prizes. The results of the week will be shared at next month's meeting.

M. Regional Transit/Transportation Demand Management Meeting

Commissioner Verts and City staff Bernadette Barrett and Greg Wilson attended a recent meeting of a group which was formed to follow up on the regional transit study that was completed in June 1999. The group meets twice a year to discuss intercity transit and TDM issues. Commissioner Verts reference the report that was provided regarding the impact of vanpools in terms of vehicle miles saved, pollution not emitted, etc. Copies of the report will be forwarded to Commission members.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, July 11, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, August 8, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D