

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

July 11, 2001

Members Present

Bob Lowry
Caron Johnson
Lita Verts
Stewart Wershow, Councilor

Absent - Excused

Craig Anderson
Jeff Barricks

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Jonathan David, ODOT
Linda Elder, Dial-A-Bus

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

| Agenda Item | Informa- tion Only | Held for Further Review | Recommendations/Action |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Minutes - June 13, 2001 | | | Accepted as presented |
| City Budget Issues | | X | Additional information to be provided at the August CACOT meeting |
| Corvallis Paratransit Service | X | | |
| Ridership Report | X | | |
| OSU Group Pass Program | X | | |
| daVinci Days Transit Service | X | | |
| Benton Co. Fair Shuttle Service | X | | |
| Intermodal Mall - Status Report | X | | |
| CTS Summer Newsletter | X | | |

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 13, 2001

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. CITY BUDGET ISSUES

City Councilor Wershow noted that the City Council and Budget Commission will be looking for assistance from the City's boards and commissions as they begin to look at addressing the budget shortfall that will occur beyond 2001-02. Four revenue enhancements have been identified. If any one of the four enhancements are not approved, budget cuts will occur. The City has begun a process to develop a listing of potential service cuts well before any actual cuts occur. He noted that there will be opportunities for Commission members to provide

input in the near future. Steve Rogers noted that the estimated budget shortfall in the next seven years is \$48 million if no new revenue sources are implemented. He reminded CACOT of the four proposed revenue enhancements. The first is the imposition of a utility fee for public utilities. He distributed a description of the fee and noted that a public forum will be held July 30 for interested persons to comment on whether to charge the City's water, wastewater, and storm water utilities a franchise fee. The second is the formation of a transportation (transit) district. Transit service would be taken out of the City's budget and would establish its own separate funding source and elected board. The funding source could be property taxes or payroll taxes. The third revenue enhancement is a county-wide vehicle registration fee. The fourth would be a November 2002 property tax serial levy.

Steve Rogers handed out the preliminary list of services for potential cuts in the Public Works Department, noting that each department had prepared a list. The combined list was recently presented to the Council's Administrative Services Committee for their consideration. Additional work will be done to refine the lists through the Budget Commission. He reviewed the proposed service reductions. The transit cuts relate to proposed service hour reductions. One of the listed items is the proposal to bring transit service in-house, which is not a cut in existing service level but was something the Council indicated it wished to consider in the next two years. Additional information will be provided for CACOT consideration at the August meeting.

It was noted that fire station five has not been built, although some site work has been completed. There was some discussion of the likelihood of the vehicle registration fee passing and the amount of revenue that would be generated. It was noted that the County and cities within Benton County would need to agree on how the funds would be shared.

III. CORVALLIS PARATRANSIT SERVICE

Staff presented an update on the status of the City's paratransit service, required of all fixed-route transit providers by the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Staff reviewed the history of the ADA and the requirements as they relate to the fixed-route bus service and paratransit service generally, including the eligibility and service criteria for paratransit service. Specific information was provided regarding the City's paratransit service, which is provided through an agreement with the Senior Council of Benton County, Inc., which operates Dial-A-Bus. Information was also provided regarding the partnership with Dial-A-Bus and Benton

County in meeting the requirements of the ADA, as well as funding of special transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities in Oregon.

It was noted that the source of funds for the State's Special Transportation Fund, which is dedicated to providing transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities, is a portion of the cigarette tax (2 cents per pack). Approximately \$9 million is generated biennially statewide. An additional \$9 million was added by the Legislature from the State's general fund in 1999 and 2001. Seventy-five percent of the funds are distributed to mass transportation or transportation district if there is one and to the county if no district exists. In our area, Benton County receives the funds. Twenty-five percent of the funds are retained by the State for a state-wide, competitive, discretionary grant program.

Staff provided information regarding how the Benton County program has evolved over the years. Benton County contracts with the City for administration of the program. The Special Transportation Coordinator is a City employee. A Benton County Special Transportation Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the County Commissioners regarding the use of the State funds, as well as other issues related to senior and disabled transportation. The majority of the funds are used to support the Dial-A-Bus operation. A small portion of the funds is provided to the Linn-Benton Loop (\$4,000 in 2001-02) and Janus House (\$2,805 in 2001-02) because these organizations provide service that cannot be met through Dial-A-Bus. The additional formula funds added in 1999 and 2001 have allowed Dial-A-Bus service to expand its weekday hours to 9:00 p.m., Saturday hours to 9:00 p.m. and add Sunday hours from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Dial-A-Bus estimated that it provided 56,375 rides in 2000-01. The estimated cost to provide those rides is approximately \$10.00 per ride.

It was noted that area fixed-route bus services also provide a significant number of rides to seniors (persons 60 years and older) and persons with disabilities. It is estimated that CTS provided over 85,000 rides to seniors and persons with disabilities in 2000-01, based upon an on-board survey. It was also estimated that the Philomath Connection provided 1,096 rides in 2000-01, and the Linn-Benton Loop provided almost 12,000 rides in 2000-01. The cost to provide a ride on the Corvallis Transit System was \$2.13 per ride in 2000-01. It is in the community's best interest to encourage seniors and persons with disabilities who can ride the fixed-route bus service to do so when they can because of the difference in cost to provide the rides as well as offering a higher level of independence to the customers.

Staff provided a copy of a draft monthly ridership report form for CACOT to consider. CACOT accepted the proposed report form, which will be used to report Dial-A-Bus service beginning in July 2001.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report (Fixed-Route and Philomath)☺

The monthly and annual CTS ridership reports were provided to the Commission (attached). June ridership was 38,605. Ridership reached another annual **ridership record** of 499,417 in 2000-01. The Philomath ridership report was also provided, showing 1,163 rides provided in June. Their annual ridership was 14,304.

B. OSU Group Pass Program

Staff reported that OSU staff members have indicated that OSU intends to continue their support of free rides for OSU faculty and staff during 2001-02; although, no signed contract has been received. Based upon the verbal assurance, continuation of the program has been reported in the CTS Summer newsletter.

C. daVinci Days Transit Service - July 21 and 22

CTS will provide free, expanded service during daVinci Days again this year. 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.

D. Benton County Fair Shuttle - July 31 - August 4

As has been done in previous years, CTS will provide free shuttle service between the fairgrounds, OSU parking lot west of Reser Stadium/Gill Coliseum, and downtown Corvallis. Service will start at 12 noon and run until approximately 11:15 p.m. each day. Half-hour service will be provided using the trolley; an additional bus will be added at 5:45 p.m. to accommodate the evening demand. Shuttle costs are shared equally by the CTS and Benton County.

E. Intermodal Mall Project Status

Staff noted that a contract has been negotiated with the design consulting firm, OTAK. The City's design review team consists of two CACOT members, Craig Anderson and Bob Lowry; a member of the Downtown Corvallis Association Design Review

Committee, Pat Lampton as the primary and David Dodson who will attend in Mr. Lampton's absence; Steve Rothermund, the Arts Center Director; and City staff members Bernadette Barrett, Steve Rogers, and Kathy Gager.

The consultant will meet with staff and the City's Design Review Committee on Friday, July 13. CACOT will be kept informed monthly as the project moves forward.

F. CTS Summer Newsletter

A copy of the CTS summer newsletter was distributed to Commission members. The summer newsletter provides information to CTS customers regarding the new, annual ridership record, expanded service for daVinci Days, the 2001-02 OSU group pass program, Benton County fair shuttle, Downtown intermodal mall project, Route 2 Northbound revision, and known construction projects that will disrupt transit service.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, August 8, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, September 12, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, October 10, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D