

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

November 14, 2001 - *Revised*

Members Present

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

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Absent - Unexcused

Jeff Barricks
Dan Preller

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - October 10			Accepted as presented
Advertising Benches		X	
Fares			Recommended fare increase and annual review
Ridership Report - Record Set	X		
Route/Schedule Review		X	
Transit District Formation Study	X		
Budget Prioritization - Status	X		
Intermodal Mall - Status Report	X		
Holiday Trolley	X		
New Shelter - Albertsons Shopping Center	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 10, 2001

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. ADVERTISING BENCHES

Ms. Barrett reported that she has received additional information regarding the bus bench advertising proposal from the City Attorney's office and AdBench representatives. A formal report will be presented at the next CACOT meeting.

III. FARES

A memorandum discussing bus fares and a specific recommended increase was distributed to CACOT members. Staff reviewed

the memorandum, which included background on the current fares and fare policies, current revenues and expenses, information from other Oregon transit providers, policy issues, the potential impact on ridership, and a specific fare increase proposal and policy considerations.

The City Council adopted a policy in 1994 that states that the City's taxpayers, OSU/ASOSU, and transit users should share in cost increases. Local property taxes, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Associated Students of Oregon State University have increased their support for transit service over the years. Fares have not been increased since 1994.

Transit expenses have increased significantly since 1994 as a result of inflation and the transit initiative passed by the voters in September 1999. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), from July 1, 1994, through June 30, 2001, was 20.3 percent.

Transit fares in Corvallis, Albany, and Philomath are the lowest in the state. Albany and the Linn-Benton Loop have proposed fare increases, and the City of Philomath is reviewing their fare structure and amount. Implementation of the Albany and Linn-Benton Loop is awaiting the Corvallis consideration of a fare increase. Some transit providers have policies which seek to recover a certain percentage of operating costs from the farebox. Others look to recover inflationary costs on a regular cycle.

Following discussion, CACOT recommended that fares be increased from 50 cents for adults to 60 cents and from 25 cents to 30 cents for seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities. This represents a 20 percent increase consistent with the CPI increase since 1994 and is consistent with previous Council policies related to transit fares. A similar increase would be applied to other fare media. (A copy of the proposed fare schedule is attached.) The Commission recommended a January 1, 2002, implementation date if possible.

Following additional discussion, it was recommended that CACOT review the fares in October 2002. The impact of any fare increase, including ridership, along with actual 2001-02 revenues and expenses, will be available at that time. The Commission would then review potential policies for future fare increases and consider an additional fare increase consistent with any recommended policies.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report - Monthly Record Set

The October ridership reports were presented. CTS provided 54,252 rides, which was the highest monthly ridership in the history of the system. October is typically the highest month because of Try Transit Week, which provides free transit service the first full week in October as a way of introducing CTS to newcomers at a time when there is the greatest transition of people into the community. It is also the beginning of the OSU school year and a time when the weather starts to change. November and December are impacted by school vacations. The Philomath and Dial-A-Bus reports were also presented.

B. Route/Schedule Review - On-time Performance

The primary concern from the increased ridership is that on-time performance is not being met and transfers are being missed. City staff is considering hiring a consultant to complete a system-wide review to match resources with service demand. Unfortunately, this process will take time. The most important step that staff can take immediately is to let CTS customers know that the City is aware of the problem and are seeking solutions. Additionally, we are moving forward to implement the designated stop program, which should help to eliminate stops every few hundred feet.

C. Transit District Formation Study

Staff informed CACOT that a white paper is being developed which discusses the formation of a transit district. The paper will discuss types of districts, funding methods, anticipated revenues, stakeholder issues, and other issues related to this subject. The paper is expected to be available in the next few weeks. A copy will be provided to CACOT members when it is available.

D. Budget Prioritization - Status

A copy of the proposed, prioritized list was provided to CACOT members with the agenda. Public Works Director Rogers noted that the two proposed transit cuts are in the top two categories to retain, indicating strong support for transit service. The next steps are for the City Council to review several items that were discussed during the Budget Commission meetings. These do not relate to transit. The list will be held until budget deliberations begin in February for the 2002-03 budget. Staff has begun the normal budgeting process. Adjustments will be made as more information is received regarding costs and revenues, including the outcome of a possible local vehicle registration election next spring. Final approval of a balanced budget will occur in June 2002.

E. Intermodal Mall - Status Report

The consultant has begun to develop plans and specifications for the project. The consultant is also proceeding to develop the Conditional Development Permit application. A preliminary meeting with Planning Division staff has resulted in some modifications to the design as proposed by the consultant and reviewed by the City's Design Review Committee.

F. Holiday Trolley

Staff has received positive responses from all of last year's holiday trolley supporters except RiteAid. Additional sponsors were also sought without success. The trolley will operate November 23-25 and December 6-27 this year. A schedule is being printed and will be available next week.

G. New Shelter

A new shelter has been installed at the Albertsons Shopping Center on Kings Blvd. The shelter was moved from a location that did not have transit service.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, December 12, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, January 9, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, February 13, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D