

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

February 9, 2000 as revised April 12, 2000

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chairman
Joanne Adler
Bob Lowry
Caron Johnson
Dan Preller
Lita Verts

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Alan Lanker, City Attorney's Office

Visitors

Tom Adler

Absent

Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Adler's Concerns - Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Service.		X	Invite Dial-A-Bus Manager to future meeting
Consideration of Recommendation to OSU - Linn-Benton Loop Route			Refer information to Linn-Benton Loop Commission
Philomath Transit Service - Intergovernmental Agreement			Recommended that Council approve agreement
Ridership Report	X		
Request for Proposals - Transit Service	X		
ASOSU Group Pass Program 2000-01	X		
LBCC Student Interest in Group Pass Program	X		
Lighting at Downtown Passenger Shelter	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 3, 1999 and January 5, 2000

The minutes were accepted with one minor correction.

II. ADLER'S ADA CONCERNS.

Chairman Anderson indicated that Commissioner Adler had asked that several issues be addressed regarding the City's Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service and that the City Attorney's office attend a Commission meeting to address those concerns. Deputy City Attorney

Lanker was introduced and indicated that he had reviewed the information provided by Commissioner Adler and wanted to enter into a dialogue about her concerns. Mr. Lanker indicated that the regulations are interpretations of the statutes, and the handbook provides interpretations of the regulations. The ADA law is not specific in many areas.

Commissioner Adler had concerns about ride turn-downs and felt that there should be no turn-downs. She indicated that she had been turned down two times she had called for rides. There was a discussion about turn-downs and how turn-downs are defined within the context of the regulations. Commissioner Alder also had concerns about subscription service and how those are defined and accommodated. Subscription rides are not required by ADA; Corvallis does not require that Dial-A-Bus, the City's paratransit service provider, provide subscription service rides.

Commissioner Alder questioned the advance reservation provision, noting that her copy of the handbook referred to the ability to reserve a ride up to 14 days in advance. The regulation has been revised to 7 days. After the regulations had been in place for a number of years, it was found that 7 days was more reasonable for several reasons, including the fact that many people who scheduled rides that far in advance forgot they had scheduled a ride, causing lost time and rides for others.

Commissioner Adler also expressed concern about wheelchairs not being secured in the buses. Staff indicated that at an ADA training provided by ODOT and the Federal Transit Administration the trainer had indicated that the City cannot require that a wheelchair be secured, although it has been the City's policy to secure chairs unless the wheelchair user objects. Mr. Lanker verified that the City cannot deny a ride to someone in a wheelchair if they refuse to have their chair secured, even though it is a potential safety hazard.

Mr. Lanker indicated that nothing he has seen or heard from staff or the Commission has indicated to him that the City is out of compliance with the ADA. It was noted that the City, County, and Dial-A-Bus have been working together for many years as partners to provide transportation to seniors and persons with disabilities. The Benton County Special Transportation Advisory Committee has discussed all of the issues raised by Commissioner Adler, and, together, the three entities have developed policies which are consistent with ADA, while at the same time providing a seamless system to seniors and persons with disabilities. The objective is to reduce confusion about the services Dial-A-Bus provides through its City and County contracts.

It was noted that the City could provide service beyond that required by the ADA but that it would take additional resources to do so. Staff was directed to invite the new Dial-A-Bus Manager to the next Commission meeting to provide information about how the service is provided.

III. CONSIDERATION OF LINN-BENTON LOOP ROUTE NEAR OSU

Steve Rogers noted that at the previous Commission meeting the potential of revising the Linn-Benton Loop route near the intersection of 15th and Jefferson was discussed. The goal is to shorten the turnaround time at this location. The bus is currently turning southbound onto 15th and using Washington and 11th to get back to Jefferson and downtown Corvallis. Two alternatives were suggested and the information will be provided to the City of Albany, which manages the Loop service.

IV. PHILOMATH TRANSIT SERVICE - Intergovernmental Agreement

Corvallis transit staff has been assisting the City of Philomath to develop and implement transit service between the two communities. The City of Philomath has received a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for a trial period through June 30, 2001. The intergovernmental agreement would allow the Philomath service to be provided through the Corvallis transit provider contract during the trial period. Service is anticipated to begin on or about April 3.

A trial transit service between the two communities has been envisioned in the Corvallis Comprehensive Plan since 1983. Many citizens have inquired about service to Philomath over the last several years at the City's public transit outreach efforts. Additionally, one of three recommendations of the recent regional transit study was the implementation of service between Corvallis and Philomath.

The Commission unanimously recommended to the City Council that the City of Corvallis enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Philomath to provide transit service.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report. Staff noted that January monthly ridership was a new, all-time January record. January ridership was 41,822, compared to 1999's January figure of 36,019. Ridership for the year to date continues to be almost 16 percent higher than last year and may reach 480,000 this year. Chairman Anderson reported

that he has experienced "standing room only" rides on his route.

The annual Oregon State University (OSU) ridership survey was conducted January 25 through February 7. Preliminary data shows that OSU riders make up approximately 31 percent of total CTS ridership. Last year it was 32 percent. Although OSU rides are down by one percent, total OSU are up overall because total ridership is up. It is estimated that 150,000 student rides will be provided this year. Faculty/staff ridership continues to be low, at about eight to nine percent of total ridership.

- B. Request for Proposals (RFP).** Staff informed CACOT that the RFP for the fixed-route transit service operations and maintenance contract was approved for release by the City Council at their February 7 meeting. The RFP included a wage and benefit provision to implement the initiative passed by the voters in September 1999. The RFP process has been coordinated with the Corvallis School District proposal. Proposals are due on April 3.
- C. OSU Student Senate.** Steve Rogers noted that he would be meeting with the ASOSU Student Fees Committee to provide information regarding the group pass program and increased student ridership. He will be asking for a small increase in fees, since the fee has not been adjusted since 1994. Ridership has grown substantially and the City's costs have increased. The proposed fee will also cover service to Philomath.
- D. Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) - Student Group Pass.** Staff reported that the Linn-Benton Community College Dean of Students has requested information regarding an LBCC student group pass program for the Corvallis Transit System. An estimate of the cost per credit hour has been provided. LBCC students may be voting on the group pass program this spring.
- E. Lighting at Downtown Terminal.** Concern has been expressed about lighting at the downtown terminal. Several of the street lights were out at the time of the complaint and have since been repaired. Even with all lights operational, it has been determined that additional lighting is desired. City staff will contact the adjacent property owner to see if the lights in their parking lot could remain on, or staff will pursue the installation of a light behind the existing shelters.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 8, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

Wednesday, April 12, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D