

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

March 8, 2000 as revised April 12, 2000

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chairman
Joanne Adler
Caron Johnson
Bob Lowry
Dan Preller
Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler
Linda Heese, Dial-A-Bus Manager

Excused

Lita Verts

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - February 9		X	April CACOT meeting
On-Time Performance Issues		X	April CACOT meeting
Follow-up Ridership Survey Conducted by OSU		X	April CACOT meeting
Follow-up - ADA Paratransit Service Discussion	X		
Ridership Report	X		
Annual OSU Ridership Survey Results	X		
ASOSU Group Pass - 2000-01	X		
LBCC Student Group Pass Status	X		
RFP for Operations/Maintenance - Status	X		
Philomath Transit Service - Status	X		
Earth Day - April 22	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission Meeting - Feb. 9	X		
Dr. Suess National Reading Day	X		
State-wide Coalition for Congressional Earmark	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 8, 2000

Commissioner Adler questioned a reported comment by Deputy City Attorney Lanker regarding the City's compliance with ADA requirements. Staff will confirm Mr. Lanker's statement and provide his recollection at the April 12 meeting.

II. ON-TIME PERFORMANCE. Chairman Anderson and Commission member Lowry noted that several of the routes have been running late, including early morning runs. Staff will work with Laidlaw staff to address this issue again and attempt to identify the reasons for the delays.

III. FOLLOW-UP - RIDERSHIP SURVEY CONDUCTED BY OSU

Steve Rogers noted that at the previous CACOT meeting, staff had proposed several possible methods to evaluate the most recent ridership survey data and the previous survey data. Mr. Rogers handed out a summary of the Route 6 to use as an example of what could be done. The summary included a graphic of the service area. Commission members felt that the information would be useful for each of the routes. Mr. Rogers asked CACOT members to review the information and provide him with comments. This item will be on next month's agenda for further discussion.

IV. FOLLOW-UP - ADA PARATRANSIT SERVICE

Staff noted that following the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act, City staff have been working with Dial-A-Bus and Benton County to implement the City's paratransit service. The City entered into its first contract with Dial-A-Bus in 1993 and has had annual contracts since that time. The service is funded primarily through Benton County Special Transportation Funds (STF). Special Transportation Funds are used throughout Oregon to assist fixed route transit providers in meeting their ADA paratransit service needs. The City of Corvallis also provides funding to Dial-A-Bus through a separate contract to cover the evening and Saturday hours. The partnership between Benton County, Dial-A-Bus, and the City assures that rides are provided to seniors and persons with disabilities throughout Benton County.

Linda Heese, Dial-A-Bus Manager, was in attendance to answer specific questions about Dial-A-Bus operations. Commissioner Adler expressed her concern regarding turn downs. Ms. Heese indicated that turn-downs are next to nothing. Until recently, staff had been counting all turn downs if they were unable to

accommodate someone's request. They have now started tracking turn downs in accordance with the adopted policy, which is that Dial-A-Bus makes every effort to meet the requested time. If the requested time is not available, Dial-A-Bus will offer the best time they have within a 1-hour window to accommodate the rider. If the rider turns down the ride, it will not be counted as a "turn down". Rides which cannot be accommodated within the 1-hour window will be counted as "turn downs". This is consistent with the requirements of the ADA. Ms. Heese also indicated that Dial-A-Bus does accommodate rides for people who wish to schedule regular trips, i.e. Monday, Wednesday, Friday to and from the same destinations at the same times. These are defined as "subscription service". Riders can also schedule their pick-up times to and from their destination. Actually, this works better for Dial-A-Bus to assist in planning and scheduling. Many riders choose to call when they are ready to be picked up, which may delay their ride home, based on the availability of a drivers. Many doctors' offices will call Dial-A-Bus when a patient is nearing the end of their appointment to reduce the time a rider must wait. It was suggested that doctors' offices be educated regarding Dial-A-Bus. Ms. Barrett indicated that this issue has been discussed at length at the Benton County Special Transportation Advisory Commission.

Ms. Heese indicated that Dial-A-Bus is in the process of purchasing new computer hardware. A software program is being developed which should provide the ability to track rides and riders more effectively. Most of their work is currently done manually. She expects to have the software up and running by May. Ms. Heese was invited to attend the CACOT meeting to update the Commission on their progress with respect to the software program and reporting abilities.

V. INFORMATION SHARING

- A. **Ridership Report.** Staff noted that February monthly ridership was a **new, all-time monthly ridership record for the Corvallis Transit System.** February ridership was 45,033. Ridership for the year continues to be 16+ percent higher than last year. Chairman Anderson reported that he has experienced "standing room only" rides on his route.
- B. **Annual OSU Ridership Survey Results.** Staff distributed the results of the annual Oregon State University (OSU) ridership survey, conducted January 25 through February 7. The results show that OSU faculty/staff/students make up 34.88 percent of CTS's total ridership. Faculty/staff and student ridership is up overall this year, but remains about the same percentage of the total.

- C. ASOSU Group Pass.** Steve Rogers reported that he had met once with the ASOSU Student Fees Committee. He presented information regarding the group pass program and requested an increase in the fee based upon increased ridership and costs. There has been no increase since the first agreement entered into with the students in 1994. The City is asking for an increase from \$1.50 per quarter/per student to \$1.70 per quarter/per student. The City is also asking for \$.05 to cover the expanded service to Philomath. The Fees Committee was unable to vote on the proposals because they did not have a quorum. The City has not been informed of any additional meetings.
- D. Linn-Benton Student Group Pass Program.** Staff reported that Linn-Benton Community College students had pursued the possibility of establishing two group pass programs, one with CTS and the other with the Loop and ATS. CTS staff provided the cost for LBCC students—\$.20 per credit hour—for a CTS group pass program. The cost was based upon the estimated number of LBCC students in Corvallis and the estimated number of rides per capita. The Loop and ATS service were proposed at \$.10 per credit hour, based upon their service level. LBCC students approved both group pass programs at a recent campus vote. The proposal now goes to the Student Senate and, if approved, to the LBCC Board of Directors.
- E. RFP for Transit Service.** Staff reminded Commission members that the current Laidlaw contract expires June 30, 2000, and that the City has issued its Request for Proposals for the next 3-year contract. Ms. Barrett reported that a mandatory preproposal meeting was held last week. Four potential proposers attended the meeting. Proposals are due April 3.
- F. Philomath Transit Service.** CTS staff is continuing to assist Philomath in the implementation of transit service between Corvallis and Philomath. It is anticipated that the service will begin as early as April 3.
- G. Earth Day - April 22 (Sat.).** CTS will provide free transit during Earth Day again this year. No information has been received from ASOSU regarding their Earth Day activities. CTS has previously participated by distributing information at a booth in the MU quad.
- H. Linn-Benton Loop Commission Meeting - February 9.** Commissioner Lowery reported on the February 9 Loop Commission meeting. The Commission discussed the up-coming LBCC student vote for a group pass program. He indicated that the Loop is also having trouble keeping on schedule

and that some adjustments have been made to the timing. The Commission also discussed a replacement bus and bus maintenance issues.

- I. **Dr. Suess Read-Along Day - March 2.** CTS participated in two school events on March 2. The trolley visited Mountain View and Jefferson Elementary Schools where Dr. Suess stories were read and songs were sung.

- J. **Oregon Transit Coalition for Congressional Earmark.** Staff reported that transit properties throughout Oregon have agreed to form a coalition to seek funding for capital projects through a Congressional earmark. There is currently no state funding available for general public transit capital projects. The City of Corvallis and several other small transit properties have previously received Federal discretionary grants (FTA Section 5309) through ODOT efforts. The coalition understands that other states have been more successful at obtaining a higher level of funding through this collaborative approach. Corvallis is asking for funds to purchase land and develop plans and specifications for a transit facility. CTS Manager Barrett will be accompanying the Oregon Transit Association's Executive Director to Washington, D. C. to represent the small transit systems in Oregon.

Chairman Anderson asked about the status of the intermodal mall. Staff noted that we are working with the Federal Transit Administration to extend the Congressional earmark date. Several major projects related to the FTA grant process must be completed prior to the application being filed. Additionally, the intermodal mall consideration was to be coordinated with the completion of the Transit Master Plan. That project has been delayed because of other transit priorities.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Wednesday, April 12, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, May 10, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D