

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

April 12, 2000

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chairman
Joanne Adler
Caron Johnson
Bob Lowry
Lita Verts
Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler

Absent

Dan Preller

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - February 9 & March 8			Approved as amended
CACOT Comments	X		
Follow-up Ridership Survey Conducted by OSU		X	
Ridership Report - March Record Set	X		
2000-01 OSU and ASOSU Group Pass Programs	X		
RFP for Operations - Status	X		
Philomath Transit Service	X		
Intermodal Mall Project	X		
Earth Day - April 22	X		
Kids Summer Pass Program	X		
Sr./Youth/Disabled Passenger Ridership Survey	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 8 and March 8, 2000

Deputy City Attorney Lanker provided a memorandum clarifying his statement regarding the City's compliance with ADA requirements. The February 8 minutes will be revised to reflect his memo.

Several amendments were made to the March 8 minutes to clarify issues in Section IV, Follow up - ADA Paratransit Service. A

couple clerical errors were also noted. The minutes were revised to reflect the discussion. The minutes for the February 8 and March 8 meetings were approved as amended.

II. CACOT COMMENTS. Commissioner Lowry distributed three copies of an early "Corvallis Transit Authority" map and schedule. Staff will attempt to identify a date for the information and provide copies for each Commission member.

III. FOLLOW-UP - RIDERSHIP SURVEY CONDUCTED BY OSU

Steve Rogers distributed maps showing the existing transit routes and areas that are not within 750 feet of a route. The information will be helpful in the future when service expansion is considered. Mr. Rogers will continue to work with the survey data and present information and issues as they become available.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report. Staff noted that March monthly ridership established a new March monthly ridership record. March ridership was 43,617. Ridership for the year continues to be 15+ percent higher than last year.

Several issues were discussed regarding possible methods of meeting on-time performance, including the signal control systems (Opticom), encouraging people to move quickly to their seats, starting the bus while people are still making their way to their seats, and the new "Yield-to-Bus" signs. The signal control device software (Opticom) is currently being upgraded to meet transit's needs by the manufacturer. It was noted that safety is an issue and that bus drivers use their judgment to determine when it is safety to continue on their route after someone boards the bus. Yield-to-Bus signs are currently being installed on the City's buses. City bus operators have been instructed not to use the flashing "Yield to Bus" signs until CTS and Police Department staff have an opportunity to provide information to the public regarding the signs and what is expected of drivers when they see the flashing signs. Staff noted that information regarding the "Yield-to-Bus" signs is on the CTS web page. These signs were authorized by a state law several years ago. The signs are in use on Tri-Met, Lane Transit, and Salem Area Transit buses.

B. 2000-01 OSU and ASOSU Group Pass. The contract for the OSU faculty and staff group pass program was forwarded to Rob Specter, OSU Vice President for Finance and Administration, for the 2000-01 program. OSU administrative staff have

indicated that the contract has been signed and is being return to the City. The City has made a presentation to ASOSU for the student group pass program. The students approved the current \$1.50 per quarter/per student fee. The requested increase to \$1.75 (an additional \$.20 for CTS and \$.05 for Philomath service) was referred to the student senate for undergraduates and student senate for graduate students for their consideration.

C. RFP for Operations. Staff reported that two proposals had been submitted on April 3 in response to the City's request for proposals (RFP's) for operations and maintenance of the City's fixed-route transit service. The proposals were from First Group and Laidlaw. The City's evaluation team reviewed the proposals, noting pros and cons of each. After the proposals were evaluated, the price proposals were opened. The Laidlaw proposal was significantly lower than First Group. Staff met with a Laidlaw representative April 11 to begin negotiations for a 3-year contract, which will begin July 1, 2000. In response to a Commission question, it was noted that the increased wage/benefit costs have been passed along through the proposal and estimated to cost an additional \$200,000 annually. This was the amount estimated by staff prior to the September initiative measure election. The only remaining money issue is that the RFP requested that a dispatcher and field supervisor be available at all hours that the buses are operating. Laidlaw had proposed the existing staffing level, which usually means that there is no field supervisor available at the Laidlaw office after 5 p.m. or on Saturdays. Laidlaw is to develop costs for that staff position for the City's consideration. Other issues discussed with Laidlaw did not involve additional funding requirements. School District 509J is currently negotiating a pupil transportation contract with Laidlaw.

D. Philomath Transit Service. Transit service between Corvallis and Philomath is scheduled to begin April 24. The service will operate Monday through Friday and will provide six runs per day. Draft copies of the map and schedule were distributed. The map and schedule, along with other information, is posted on the CTS web page. It was noted that transfers between CTS and the Philomath Connection will be free. Additionally, the Philomath Middle School children are purchasing CTS coupons for the City of Philomath to give to those persons who cannot afford the 50-cent fare. The service will begin with a leased bus. The Philomath bus should arrive mid-May and a joint community event will occur after the Philomath bus arrives.

E. Intermodal Mall. Staff reported that they had met with

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) staff in Seattle to discuss the Congressional earmark for the intermodal mall. The specific site must be evaluated for environmental and historical implications and other pre-grant application issues must be addressed. The site suggested for the intermodal mall is the City-owned property at the corner of 5th and Monroe, including portions of the existing Monroe Street driveway. It was determined that the site across the street from City Hall was not viable because of the Madison Avenue improvements, which would restrict bus turning movements. The parking lot adjacent to the existing downtown terminal is most likely not viable because the property owner does not want to sell the property to the City, thus requiring a condemnation proceeding. Commissioner Lowry noted that the proposed location at 5th and Monroe would complement any extension of rail service to Corvallis. This item will be presented to the Urban Services Committee at their April 24 meeting.

- F. Earth Day - April 22 (Sat.).** CTS will provide free transit during Earth Day again this year. The Mayor will also proclaim April 22 as Earth Day in Corvallis at the April 17 City Council meeting.
- G. Kids Summer Pass Program.** The City will offer a special kids summer pass again this summer at the same price of \$10.95 for unlimited rides from June 17 through September 5. Sales of these passes has increased each year since the program began. Additionally, CTS staff was contacted by the Library staff about rides for children participating in the summer reading program. No other information is available at this time.
- H. Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership Survey.** An on-board ridership survey will be conducted the week of May 8 to estimate the number of seniors (persons over 60), youth (children under 18), and persons with disabilities who are riding CTS. A similar survey was conducted in September 1997. The survey data provides valuable information about CTS customers. Drivers will track the categories based upon personal observation and the fare media.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

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

Wednesday, June 14, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D