

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

November 8, 2000

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chairman
Bob Lowry
Lita Verts

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller
Caron Johnson
Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Inform a-tion Only	Held for Furth er Revie w	Recommendations/Action
Minutes - September 12, 2000			Approved
Transit Service Expansion		X	December CACOT meeting
20-Year Celebration		X	December CACOT meeting
Ridership Report	X		
Holiday Trolley	X		
Corvallis Clinic Bus Stop & Related Subjects	X		
FTA Grants	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission - Oct. Mtg.	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 12, 2000

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. TRANSIT SERVICE EXPANSION

Staff presented a memorandum outlining the need to consider service expansion to meet current demand and a possible funding source. Routes 1, 5, 6, and A are experiencing standing-room only on early morning and afternoon runs. Transit ridership has increased 28 percent in the last two years. In addition to standing room only on some buses, the number of persons getting on and off the bus has resulted in the buses not maintaining on-time performance. Both of these

situations discourage customers from riding.

Staff suggested, at a minimum, that CACOT consider recommending that peak service be added to Routes 1 and 6 in the morning to make sure that our customers can arrive at their jobs or classes on time. The Kings Boulevard corridor, hospital area, and Southwest Corvallis are already served every 30 minutes. It was noted that the City's Transportation Plan calls for 30-minute service in South Corvallis. It was also noted that Service Route A (Southwest Corvallis) is served with the smaller bus, which is inadequate to meet the demand.

One issue limiting the ability to add any additional service is the fleet size. The City has a limited number buses to provide existing service and provide a bus for occasional break downs or conduct preventative maintenance. Corvallis also provides back up for the Philomath Connection since they only have one bus to provide their service. It is assumed that peak service could be provided in the morning hours using an existing CTS bus, with the understanding that there may be an occasion when a school bus may be called into service. The City will be ordering two new buses in the near future utilizing one federal and one state grant. We will retain one of the older buses to expand the fleet. The manufacturing schedule is typically 18 months from the time the buses are ordered.

Staff suggested that CACOT consider recommending a rate increase to assist in funding the new service. The City Council established a policy for funding Corvallis transit service in 1994. The Council determined that the costs should be shared by the taxpayers and the users. The amount paid by Corvallis taxpayers has increased significantly since 1994 and in particular since the September 1999 initiative measure that increased driver wages and benefits. The 2000-01 transit budget has also been impacted by rising fuel costs. OSU students have increased their contribution to the transit system through an increase in the group pass payment this year. There has not been a fare increase since 1994. It is estimated that a small increase in transit fares, including coupon books and monthly passes, would provide the revenue necessary to add the suggested one and a half hour peak service.

This item will be held until the December meeting to provide an opportunity for discussion by the full Commission. Copies of the memorandum will be mailed to the absent CACOT members prior to the meeting.

The Commission also discussed the need for additional service to meet demand as new developments are constructed outside the existing service area. Examples were the airport and the large apartment complex in South Corvallis south of Goodnight Avenue.

III. 20-YEAR CELEBRATION

Staff is continuing to gather ideas for celebrating the 20-year anniversary for the transit service, which began in February 1981. Copies of a possible design for a bus wrap were provided to CACOT members. The cost of a bus wrap ranges from \$2,300 for the back section to \$7,000 for the back and the back portion of the two sides. Staff was directed to approach possible sponsors for the bus wrap. This item was continued to the December meeting.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report (Fixed Route and Philomath) ☺

The October ridership report was provided to the Commission. A new, all-time monthly ridership record of **48,684** was established in October. This represents an 11 percent increase over last October and a 26 percent increase over the 1998 October ridership. It is estimated that 2000-01 ridership will reach approximately 500,000 rides. Staff is to provide wide distribution of the ridership record information.

In October Philomath also had the highest monthly ridership since their service began in April, providing 1,340 rides.

B. Holiday Trolley

Staff reported that letters had been sent to Holiday Trolley sponsors in October. All participating merchants have continued their support with the exception of the Cannery Mall, which is currently being renovated, and Rice's Pharmacy and the French Door. The trolley will operate every day between December 13 and 30, except there will be no service on Christmas Day.

C. Corvallis Clinic Bus Stop and Related Subjects

Staff met with Dan Preller, property manager of Good

Samaritan Hospital, to discuss transit facilities at the hospital and clinic facilities. It was felt that a comprehensive review of development on hospital/clinic property would result in better planning for future transit facilities. Several possibilities were discussed. Mr. Preller and staff will follow up on those ideas.

D. FTA Grants

Staff reported that Council had accepted the FTA grant for the intermodal mall and the bus purchase/auto announce system. Additionally, staff has informally received information that an Congressional earmark (\$260,000) has been approved in the 2001 budget and signed by the President. The federal register listing the project has not been received. The new earmark would provide funding for the City to proceed to purchase land to construct a transit operations and maintenance facility. The City will most likely seek an additional Congressional earmark in federal fiscal year 2003 for construction of the facility.

E. Linn-Benton Loop Commission - October 12, 2000

Minutes of the October 12 Loop Commission meeting were presented to CACOT. Ridership on the Loop saw an increase of approximately 10 percent for the first quarter. The Loop has also received a 2001 Congressional earmark (\$200,000) for funds to purchase a bus. The request was for \$232,000. Additional resources are being sought to fill the gap. A ridership survey will be conducted most likely during Winter Term. Loop Fall Festival ridership was light and will be promoted more next year.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Wednesday, December 13, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

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

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