

**CORVALLIS CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT**

AGENDA

**Wednesday; November 3, 1999; 7:50 a.m.**

**City Hall Conference Room D**

501 S. W. Madison Avenue

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 6, 1999
- III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS (Items not on Agenda)
- IV. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN
- V. DISCUSSION OF RIDERSHIP SURVEY
- VI. INFORMATION SHARING
  - A. Ridership Reports (fixed route and paratransit service)
  - B. Holiday Trolley
  - C. Linn-Benton Loop Commission - October 14
  - D. Special Transportation Funding
  - E. Y2K Preparations
  - F. Transit Initiative Implementation
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

**Future Meetings:**

Wednesday, December 1, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

Wednesday, January 5, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
MINUTES**

October 6, 1999

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chairman  
Bill Hoffman  
Joanne Adler  
Lita Verts  
Caron Johnson  
Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works  
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler  
Mike Saslow, Dial-A-Bus

Absent - Excused

Bob Lowry

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

| Agenda Item                              | Informa-<br>tion<br>Only | Held for<br>Further<br>Review | Recommendations/Action |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Origination/Destination Study            |                          | X                             |                        |
| Ridership Report                         | X                        |                               |                        |
| Benton County Fair - August 3 - 7        | X                        |                               |                        |
| Fall Festival - September 25 and 26      | X                        |                               |                        |
| University Day - September 16            | X                        |                               |                        |
| Where It's @ - OSU New Student Event     | X                        |                               |                        |
| Try Transit Week '99                     | X                        |                               |                        |
| 1999 Oregon Legislature Update           | X                        |                               |                        |
| Retirement of Commission Member Hoffman  | X                        |                               |                        |
| City Council Action Re: Transit Election | X                        |                               |                        |

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 2, July 7, and August 4, 1999**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

## II. ORIGINATION/DESTINATION STUDY (DATA COLLECTED BY OSU CLASS)

Staff distributed copies of the data collected by an OSU class on May 13. The students captured data for an entire weekday of service on every route, noting where passengers got on and off the bus. The location listed is by shelter location or the nearest intersection where at least one person got on or off the bus.

A list was also provided of several locations where routes overlap and the combined numbers of passengers getting on and off at the specific locations. Commission members briefly reviewed the material, noting several locations where there were significant numbers of passengers getting on and off. It was noted that where routes travel outbound and inbound along the same roadway, it is important to review the intersection in both directions. It is also important to note the numbers where several intersections are in close proximity to each other, since passengers may choose to get on at one intersection and off at one that is close. Commissioner Verts indicated that she lives between two stops and often gets on at one and gets off at another.

Copies of the previous study data, conducted December 3, 1996, will be provided to Commission members for their analysis.

## III. INFORMATION SHARING

**A. Ridership Report.** Staff provided the July ridership report from the City's ADA paratransit provider, Dial-A-Bus. The ridership report for August and September will most likely be available for the November Commission meeting.

The fixed route ridership report was then distributed. The report shows a **17 percent increase** in ridership for the first three months of this year (July through September). In September 35,537 rides were provided. This is the highest September ridership in the history of the system and exceeds the next highest September ridership by over 5,000 rides.

Staff speculated that the increase is due to a number of factors, including the fact that riders are taking advantage of the new route structure, gas prices are higher, the addition of many new transit shelters throughout the community, and an increased awareness of the availability of transit. It was noted that the first three months are typically the lowest of the year because of the large impact of OSU student ridership. Year-round ridership is growing.

- B. Benton County Fair Shuttle - August 3-7.** The ridership report for the Benton County Fair shuttle was distributed. It showed a decrease in ridership this year compared to last year. Several Commission members indicated that they thought fair attendance was down this year, particularly the last few days of the fair. Staff has requested fair attendance information from the new Benton County fair manager. Shuttle costs are shared equally by the City and Benton County.
- C. Fall Festival - September 25 and 26.** CTS provided free, expanded transit service again this year during Fall Festival Weekend. Service started at the regular Saturday start time and ran until the regular weekday end time. Ridership during the weekend was 1,729 rides compared to 1,664 last year. It was noted that ridership on Route 5 far exceeds the ridership on any other route or even combination of routes serving the same area. Route 5 has 30-minute service, compared to hourly on all other routes. Staff noted that the Fall Festival promotes the use of the City's transit service during the weekend in their promotional materials and web page. No information was available regarding the shuttle that Fall Festival provided between Reser Stadium and the Festival.
- D. University Day - September 16.** Staff participated in this campus activity targeted at OSU faculty and staff at the beginning of each school year. The event includes display booths representing on- and off-campus services and products. OSU has paid for the CTS booth for a number of years to make sure faculty and staff are aware of the group pass program and the availability of transit. The event was successful at reaching many new and returning faculty and staff to provide transit schedules and maps and information about the service.

- E. Where It's @ - OSU New Student Orientation.** Where It's @ is sponsored by the University and Chamber to provide an opportunity for local area vendors and on-campus organizations to provide information to new students about the services, products, and activities that are available. This was the third year that the event has been held. CTS has had a booth each year to provide information about area transit services and bicycling opportunities. Students were more aware this year of the student group pass program and many had already used the bus system during the week.
- F. Try Transit Week '99.** This is Try Transit Week, October 4 through 9. A proclamation was signed at the October 4 noon City Council meeting by the Mayor, OSU President Risser, and ASOSU President Melanie Spraggins. Several of the Employee Transportation Coordinators from the Transportation Demand Management group were present at the meeting for introduction to the City Council. A couple of the community's employers are conducting their own campaigns at their work sites to encourage transit use. Entry forms are provided by the bus drivers for employees to take to their work sites for drawings. The City of Corvallis is holding such an activity during the week, with daily drawings.

The regional transit study was also presented to the City Council on Monday by Commission member Verts, Councilor Wogaman, and Transit Coordinator Barrett. Additionally, Sam Stadler, from the Oregon Office of Energy, showed a video concerning global warming and the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels through encouraging the use of transportation alternatives, such as transit.

- G. 1999 Oregon Legislature Update.** Staff reported on a meeting held October 5 to hear Martin Loring, ODOT's Public Transit Division Manager, discuss the outcome of this year's legislative action regarding senior and disabled transportation. Representatives from the 3-county Special Transportation Advisory Committees and senior and disabled groups were present. Mike Saslow, Dial-A-Bus Manager, and Commission member Verts were also present. The Legislature approved \$19 million additional dollars for senior/disabled transportation for the 1999-01 biennium. Nine million (\$9,000,000)

will be distributed through the current process for state senior/disabled funding. Benton County will see an increase from approximately \$103,000 to \$173,700 for the current fiscal year. The Benton County Special Transportation Advisory Committee will be establishing priorities for this funding in the coming months. The legislature expects the new funds to be used to add new service, either by expanding the area served and/or expanding hours/days of operation. The Commission will be kept informed of this process.

- H. Bill Hoffman's Retirement.** Staff and the Commission expressed their thanks to Commission member Hoffman for his years of service on the Transit Advisory Commission, as well as for his years as City Council liaison to the Commission. Bob Lowry has been appointed by the Mayor to replace Mr. Hoffman.
- I. City Council Action Re: Transit Election.** Staff and Councilor Barlow-Pieterick reported on the City Council's action at Monday night's City Council meeting regarding the September 21 transit election. Council directed staff to determine the prevailing wage as referenced in the transit measure and negotiate a contract amendment with Laidlaw to possibly implement the prevailing wage beginning January 1, 2000. The information would then be provided to the City Council for their consideration. The second direction to staff was to investigate the possibility of the City taking over direct operation of the system as of July 1, 2000.

The Commission discussed the transit measure and the citizens' lack of understanding about the implication of the measure passing. The Commission will be kept informed of any action regarding implementation of the prevailing wage effective January 1. It was assumed by Commission members that the Commission would have some involvement in the consideration of the City taking over operation of the transit system.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Wednesday, November 3, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D  
Wednesday, December 1, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D