

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT**

**MINUTES - Amended  
January 6, 1999**

Members Present

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

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller

Absent - Excused

Caron Johnson  
Ryan Tateishi, ASOSU Representative

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works  
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler  
Bob Lowry

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Ridership Report	X		
Holiday Trolley	X		
Status of Service Route Bus	X		
Status of Laidlaw Negotiations	X		
1998 Citizen Attitude Survey	X		
OSU Ridership Survey	X		
Subcommittee Report	X		

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 2, 1998**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

**II. INFORMATION SHARING**

**A. Ridership Report.** The monthly fixed route ridership report was provided to the Commission. December ridership was 34,113 compared to 33,622 for the same month last year. The December ridership is impacted by

the holiday trolley ridership. (See "Holiday Trolley" discussion.) No paratransit ridership information was available.

- B. Performance Reports.** Staff presented information which compared several performance factors for fiscal years 1995-96 and 1998-99 and the Transit Master Plan high level scenario. The factors included number of buses, number of 30-minute headway routes, number of 60-minute headway routes, service hours, hours per capita, and ridership. Steve Rogers noted that the City's per capita service hours were next to the lowest when the peer review was completed for the Transit Master Plan (TMP) (.30 hours per capita). Even with the increased service per capita in 1998-99 to .45 hours per capita, Corvallis Transit service is still significantly below the average peer median of .74 hours per capita. The proposed service level in the TMP would increase the hours per capita to .93, using a projected population of 62,500.
- C. Holiday Trolley.** Staff reported that this year's holiday trolley ridership was 3,240. This is about half of last year's ridership. No additional data was available prior to the CACOT meeting to allow an evaluation of the ridership decrease. Staff will bring this item back at the February meeting. It was noted that if the trolley ridership had equaled last year's ridership, the December 1998 ridership would have been an all-time high December for the transit system.
- D. Status of Service Route Bus.** No new information has been received which would impact a change in the delivery schedule. The service route bus is being manufactured, with an anticipated delivery date of January 30, 1999. Following local distributor and CTS staff inspections, the bus should be in service by mid-February. The manufacturer has provided a loaner bus at no charge, similar to the one ordered, for City use until the City's bus arrives. CTS bus drivers and mechanics have been trained regarding the operations and maintenance of the bus. It will be used primarily as a backup.
- E. Winter Newsletter.** Staff distributed a copy of the Winter 1998-99 CTS "What's New" newsletter. This is a relatively new publication that staff has prepared and provided on a quarterly basis to communicate directly

with CTS customers. It is distributed on-board the buses. The Winter edition carries articles on the loaner bus, the planned OSU survey, passenger shelters, the holiday trolley, and tips on saving money through the purchase of coupon books or passes. The newsletter also contains information on who to call for information, lost and found, complaints, or compliments, as well as the CTS web site and e-mail addresses and phone numbers of other local public transportation providers.

- F. Status of Laidlaw Negotiations.** CTS staff reported that the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) and Laidlaw met with the federal mediator in December. Laidlaw presented its "best and final" offer, which has not been accepted by the local ATU membership. No additional negotiating sessions have been scheduled to date.
- G. 1998 Citizen Attitude Survey.** Staff distributed copies of several pertinent pages of the 1998 survey results. The pages provided responder demographics, responses to questions regarding downtown parking, and usage and rating of the City bus service. It was noted that this year's bus ratings are similar to previous years. Councilor Barlow-Pieterick referred to the written comments regarding the bus system. The written comments were not available to staff in time for copying for the Commission meeting. The comments will be provided at the February meeting.
- H. OSU Ridership Survey.** Staff described this annual on-board survey, which has been conducted since 1993. OSU ridership is tracked for two weeks, generally during the last week in January and the first week in February. This year's survey will run from January 25 through February 6. Bus drivers track three categories of OSU riders: faculty, staff and students. The results are shared with OSU administration and ASOSU during the annual discussions regarding the group pass contracts. The Commission will receive the results at their March meeting, showing the results of each annual survey from 1993 through 1999.
- I. Subcommittee Report.** Chairman Anderson reported that the CACOT subcommittee reviewing routes has met several

times. He indicated that the subcommittee had discussed goals and objectives for the subcommittee and identified needed data. Additional information will be provided at the February meeting.

### III. COMMISSION COMMENTS

**Regional Transit Study.** Commission member Hoffman referred to an article in the *Gazette-Times* regarding the regional transit study. Staff indicated that the Cascades West Council of Governments, along with local jurisdictions in Linn and Benton Counties, obtained a grant to study the feasibility of a regional transit system. A steering committee has been formed, including Corvallis City Councilor Tom Wogaman. Staff from various local jurisdictions, including Corvallis, Albany, Lebanon, Philomath, Linn County, and Benton County will serve on a technical review team. The consultant contract for this project was recently signed with Nelson/Nygaard. This is the same consultant firm that developed the City's proposed Transit Master Plan. The Commission will be kept informed as this project moves forward.

Commission member Adler reported on her daughter's observations regarding transit ridership at and near Corvallis High School. Ms. Adler also indicated that she thought ridership would increase if grocery carts were allowed on board. She was also concerned about not allowing people, particularly children, on board if they did not have the fare. She feels that this is a safety concern. It was noted that the City buses are part of the Block Home program and any student that feels threatened can ask a bus driver for assistance. Following additional discussion, staff was directed to discuss this matter at the up-coming driver meeting and report back to the Commission at the February meeting.

Commissioner Adler then noted that she had reviewed information presented at the previous meeting regarding projected ridership when increased frequency occurs. She feels that frequency is detrimental to total ridership in many cases, including Corvallis' schedule changes in October 1997. This issue will be addressed by the subcommittee.

The Commission discussed the east-west service,

implemented with a 3-year ODOT demonstration grant to provide better service to Hewlett-Packard and the east-west corridor. This service has not resulted in the expected ridership increase. Staff was directed to send a letter to Hewlett-Packard notifying them that 1999-00 is the last year of the demonstration project and that CACOT will be reviewing route productivity and making recommendations regarding the use of transit resources.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.