

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

February 3, 1999

Members Present

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

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler
George Curtin
Bob Lowry

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Visitor Comments - George Curtin, AFL-CIO Re: Laidlaw Negotiations	X		
Transit/Land Use Connection			Recommendation to City Council and Planning Commission to consider transit during review of developments/redevelopments
Exterior Bus Image/Design Proposal			Directed staff to pursue potential sponsors and present to City Council
Ridership Report	X		
Status of Service Route Bus	X		
1998 Citizen Attitude Survey	X		
Saturday Shoppers' Shuttle	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission Meeting - January 14	X		
Subcommittee Report	X		
Regional Transit Study	X		
Transportation Demand Management Networking Group Meeting	X		
City Parking Committee	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 6, 1998

The minutes were amended by Commissioner Adler to correct a portion of her statements regarding ridership. The minutes were accepted as revised.

II. VISITOR COMMENTS

George Curtin from the AFL-CIO appeared before the Commission to provide information regarding the on-going Laidlaw Transit, Inc. and Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) negotiations covering Corvallis school bus and transit drivers. He provided salary and benefit comparisons, the ATU's calculation of Laidlaw's profit margin, and status of the negotiations. He indicated that the ATU is reaching out to the community to put pressure on Laidlaw to provide information about their business and to go to binding arbitration. He also stated that the ATU believes that Laidlaw has committed two unfair labor practices, which will be considered by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Mr. Curtin responded to questions from Commission members. He explained the binding arbitration process. He also noted that if Laidlaw is found to have committed an unfair labor practice that Laidlaw would then be prohibited from permanently replacing drivers during a subsequent strike.

Councilor Barlow-Pieterick reiterated the City Council's position of encouraging both sides to resolve this matter. He also noted that staff will be reporting on the impact of the City operating the transit service in-house in preparation for the "request for proposal" issuance later this year.

III. TRANSIT/LAND USE CONNECTION (Recommendation)

During the January CACOT subcommittee meeting, members discussed the difficulty of providing transit service in various parts of Corvallis. Lack of street connectivity was a major barrier and required long loops through primarily single-family residential areas. One example was Route 7 along Conser Street. Bob Lowry recalled, as a member of the South Corvallis Area Plan Steering Committee, that it was a struggle to include street connectivity in that plan to assure that transit could serve the area without having to maneuver on narrow, residential streets. Transit systems

provide the most convenient and efficient service by providing short, 2-way routes instead of long, circuitous loops that require the customer to ride a long time in one direction or the other, depending on their destination.

Following discussion, **the Commission unanimously recommends that the Planning Commission and City Council review new developments or redevelopments to consider existing or future transit use and street connectivity. Additionally, the Commission recommends that the Council look into extending Lancaster south of Conifer to Walnut Boulevard along the existing right-of-way.**

IV. PROPOSAL FOR EXTERIOR BUS IMAGE/DESIGN (Action)

Staff reviewed the Commission's previous discussions regarding advertising on City buses. Prior to last year, the Commission did not feel that commercial advertising was consistent with community values. Last year staff was directed to discuss possible advertising options with commercial advertisers. CTS staff and Albany Transit staff met with representatives of Obie. Obie currently provides advertising for Lane Transit, Salem Area Transit, and Tri-Met. Obie staff expressed the concern that the number of vehicles available between the systems (Albany, Corvallis, and Loop) and the population density in the area may not be sufficient to support a viable advertising campaign. Additional information was provided to Obie but no response or proposal has ever been received.

Staff and ex-Commission member Lowry have attended two Oregon Transportation Conferences where jurisdictions have shown exterior bus images which are attractive and not typical commercial advertising. The bus images have brought positive attention to the bus systems, resulting in increased ridership and community support. Staff requested support from the Commission to pursue potential sponsors of exterior bus images that would represent various facets of the community in a non-commercial manner. **CACOT unanimously approved staff's pursuing potential sponsors and that a refined concept be presented to the City Council for consideration.**

V. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report. The monthly fixed route ridership report was provided to the Commission. January

ridership was 36,019 compared to 33,481 for the same month last year. No paratransit ridership information was available.

- B. Status of Service Route Bus.** The service route bus is being manufactured, with a revised delivery date of mid-February. Following local distributor and CTS staff inspections, the bus should be in service by the end of February or first of March. The loaner bus is being used as a backup bus. CTS bus drivers and mechanics have been trained regarding the operations and maintenance of the bus.
- C. 1998 Citizen Attitude Survey.** Staff distributed copies of the written comments section of the survey. This information was not available in time for distribution at the January meeting. Commissioners are to call CTS staff if they have questions regarding the comments.
- D. Saturday Shoppers' Shuttle.** Staff reported that the Downtown Corvallis Association (DCA) had applied for and received City Economic Development funds to operate a free Saturday shuttle. CTS staff has been working with DCA staff to implement this service, based upon available funds through June 1999. The shuttle will operate from 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays between February 27 and June 26, using the City's trolley. The shuttle route is similar to the holiday trolley route and will stop only at designated stops. DCA will reimburse the City for the cost of the shuttle operation and will be responsible for marketing the service. It is anticipated that this free service will impact existing City transit service and farebox recovery. Staff will report monthly on shuttle ridership.
- E. Linn-Benton Loop Commission Meeting - January 14.** Bob Lowry reported that 20,000 rides had been given for the first 6 months of 1998-99. A 2-week survey had been conducted showing that eighty (80) percent of the ridership is persons traveling between LBCC and OSU campuses. Hewlett-Packard makes up approximately ten (10) percent of the ridership. LBCC is working on constructing a large passenger shelter on campus, funded partially by the Loop. The Loop administrator (City of Albany) is looking for a private contractor to do their maintenance, which needs specialized equipment, available 24-hours a day.

Additional funding became available to the Loop in 1998-99 as a result of a change in the manner in which federal transit funds are distributed by the state for the small city program. Two additional mid-day runs will be reinstated during February, leaving only a 1-hour, mid-day break in service.

- F. Subcommittee Report.** Chairman Anderson reported that the subcommittee had reviewed and revised the major goals and objectives for the subcommittee. The final version will be distributed at the March Commission meeting. He noted that a route survey will be conducted by an OSU class spring term when sufficient students are available for this type of research project.
- G. Regional Transit Study.** Staff reported that the first steering committee meeting had been held for the regional transit study on January 22. The steering committee is made up of policy makers and other stakeholders from Linn and Benton Counties. Corvallis City Councilor Tom Wogaman represents the City. CACOT member Lita Verts serves on the steering committee as a representative of the Disability Services Advisory Council. Staff from various local jurisdictions, including Corvallis, Albany, Lebanon, Philomath, Linn County, and Benton County will serve on a technical review team. No meetings of the technical team have been scheduled. The consultant for this project is Nelson/Nygaard. The Commission will be kept informed as this project moves forward.
- H. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan Implementation.** City staff has been working with the Corvallis Chamber of Commerce to implement a joint project of providing information and assistance to Corvallis area employers about transportation alternatives. The first networking meeting was held January 21, with representatives from 14 large employers and the Downtown Corvallis Association. City and Chamber staff provided background information for the group. The group then discussed the benefits of TDM for employers, employees, and the community. Staff then provided an overview of various TDM strategies. The group will meet for 2-hour brown bag meetings on the third Thursday of each month to discuss each TDM strategy in detail, discuss the specifics of putting

together a TDM plan for each work site, and plan for and participate in events to promote alternative modes. Corvallis area employers are invited to join the networking group.

- I. **Parking Commission.** The first meeting of the City's Parking Commission was held on January 27. The Commission is developing goals. One of the items on their agenda was whether meters or permits would be used for the two new parking lots adjacent to the river front. The Commission recommended permits. The Commission will be looking at parking in the downtown area. It was noted that the cost to park at a 10-hour meter all day was less than the cost of riding the bus.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Wednesday, March 3, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

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

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