

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT  
MINUTES**

August 4, 1999

Members Present

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

Absent - Excused

Caron Johnson

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works  
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Wogaman, City Councilor  
Tom Adler  
Roger McDonald, Dial-A-Bus

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Regional Transit Study	X		
Ridership Report	X		
daVinci Days - July 17 and 18	X		
Benton County Fair - August 3 - 7	X		
Operating Procedures for Animals	X		
Fall Festival - September 25 and 26	X		
Where It's @ and University Day	X		
Try Transit Week '99	X		
OSU On-Board Survey - Status	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

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

The minutes were held for the September meeting.

## II. REGIONAL TRANSIT STUDY

The Regional Transit Study was presented to the Commission by Councilor Tom Wogaman, the City Council representative on the Study's Steering Committee; Lita Verts, a CACOT member and also a member of the Steering Committee, representing the Linn-Benton Disabled Services Advisory Committee; and Bernadette Barrett, the City's Transit Manager, who served on the Study's Technical Committee along with Steve Rogers.

The report included background on the regional transit study and the membership of the Steering Committee; a review of existing services within Linn and Benton Counties and the telephone survey that was conducted in Corvallis, Albany, and Lebanon; a discussion of the peer review that was conducted as part of the study to look at similarly situated university communities with intercity transit service; the long- and short-term service plans, including governance, financing, and feasibility; and next steps.

The telephone survey indicated that voters in Corvallis were the only group to support (57 percent) an increase in property taxes to pay for additional intercity transit service (\$.25/\$1000). The Steering Committee developed a long-term plan to be implemented when funding is available that would significantly increase intercity service. This service would be dependant on connections with local service, such as Corvallis Transit System (CTS) and Albany Transit Service (ATS). The Steering Committee also recommended three steps that could be taken to improve intercity connections in the short term. They included: expansion of the current Linn-Benton Loop service, extension of service to Philomath to connect with CTS and the Loop in Corvallis, and extension of service to Lebanon which would connect with the Loop and ATS. An additional recommendation for the long- and short-term plans was the inclusion of paratransit and carpool/vanpool components.

Staff reported that the Loop Commission is gathering information about the cost of expanding the Loop service. It was noted that the jurisdictions that support the Loop are the cities of Corvallis and Albany, Linn-Benton Community College, and Benton and Linn Counties. Benton County contributes Special Transportation Fund and General

Fund dollars. Linn County contributes funds from its Special Transportation grant funds. Hewlett-Packard has a group pass program for the Loop, and its contribution for the last two years has been the same as the amount paid by the cities of Albany and Corvallis and the Linn-Benton Loop. Oregon State University (OSU) has not contributed to the Loop for many years even though many OSU students attend classes at Linn-Benton Community College as part of their core curriculum. OSU has been asked on repeated occasions to participate in supporting this service.

City staff has been working with Philomath representatives for several years to explore transit service between Philomath and Corvallis. Philomath has dedicated funds in their 1999-00 budget for transit service. Corvallis transit staff is pursuing possible state match operating funds for the Philomath service, along with the needed vehicle. The Lebanon extension appears to be less viable because of the property tax compression that Linn County jurisdictions are facing.

Paratransit service may be required of the intercity service if the service falls within the definition covered by the Americans With Disabilities Act. This would add significant cost to the intercity service.

The carpool/vanpool component was briefly reviewed. It was noted that the Council of Governments maintains a data base for carpool matching. The City has addressed the issue of carpools/vanpools as part of its education of local area employers at the March meeting of the Employee Transportation Coordinators. Vanpools are typically supported through employer contributions and the use of third-party contractors. This is attractive to employers because the third-party contractor assumes the liability and responsibility for the van(s).

The next steps beyond the transit study are to: present the study to the various local jurisdictions to raise the awareness of the need for increased intercity public transportation and to continue to have the steering committee, with some additional stakeholders, meet on a semi-annual basis to review progress towards implementation of the short-term recommendations.

## **INFORMATION SHARING**

- A. Ridership Report.** Staff reported that the fixed route bus service provided 34,628 rides during the month of July. This is approximately the same as last year, except that last year's July numbers included several days of the fair shuttle, which affects overall ridership numbers for July and August, depending on when the fair occurs. July and August combined numbers will be compared next month to last year's July and August.
- B. DaVinci Days.** Ridership for the free daVinci Days expanded CTS service was presented to the Commission. Ridership (1,504 rides) increased slightly over last year (1,336 rides). Staff directed attention to the large ridership on Route 5, which is the only 30-minute route currently offered. Commission members reiterated the importance of frequency to making transit a viable transportation option for those passengers of choice. It was also noted that daVinci Days did not promote the expanded CTS service in their promotional materials, noting that Fall Festival includes such information on their promotional materials.
- C. Benton County Fair Shuttle - August 3-7.** The Benton County Fair started August 3. CTS is providing free shuttle service between the fairgrounds, OSU parking lot west of Reser Stadium/Gill Coliseum, and downtown Corvallis. Service starts at 12 noon, using the trolley, and runs until approximately 11:15 p.m. each day. Fifteen minute service is provided using an additional bus beginning at 5:45 p.m. to accommodate the evening demand. Shuttle costs are shared equally by the CTS and Benton County.
- D. Operating Procedures for Animals.** Staff distributed a copy of the driver operating procedures regarding animals on City buses or in transit facilities. The procedures are consistent with our transit policies.

Staff had presented the operating procedures to CTS drivers at last month's driver meeting, along with a video that provided guidance on the appropriate way to respond to persons with service animals in places of public accommodation. It was noted that many types of animals can serve as service animals, including dogs, cats, birds, monkeys, and pot bellied pigs. The same information was provided to the Downtown Corvallis Association members at their July meeting.

- E. Fall Festival - Sept. 25 and 26.** CTS will provide free, expanded transit service again this year during Fall Festival Weekend. Service starts at the regular Saturday start time and runs until the regular weekday end time.
- F. Where It's @ - OSU New Student Orientation and University Day.** Staff is involved with several OSU and Chamber events promoting transit to OSU students, faculty and staff. Where It's @ is geared toward new OSU students and will be held September 24 on the MU Quad. University Day is September 16 and is focused on OSU faculty and staff. CTS will have a booth at both events and will operate a trolley shuttle around campus during the Where It's @ event.
- G. Try Transit Week '99.** This year's Try Transit Week will be held October 4 through 9 and will again also include Albany Transit System and the Linn-Benton Loop. Staff is working with the City/Chamber Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETC's) group to promote this more effectively to area employees.
- H. OSU On-Board Survey - Status.** Staff has received the raw data and detailed spreadsheets for the OSU on-board survey conducted in May. Staff will consolidate the information so that it can be compared to the information received during the initial on-board survey conducted during the Transit Master Plan activity. This item will be forwarded to the transit route subcommittee when available.

### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

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

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Wednesday, September 1, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D  
Wednesday, October 6, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D