

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

November 3, 1999

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chairman
Joanne Adler
Caron Johnson
Bob Lowry
Lita Verts
Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Election of Vice Chairman			Bob Lowry elected.
Discussion of Ridership Survey		X	
Ridership Report	X		
Holiday Trolley			
Linn-Benton Loop Commission		X	
Special Transportation Funding	X		
Y2K Preparations	X		
Transit Initiative Implementation	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 3, 1999

The minutes were approved as submitted.

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

The raw data was provided to CACOT members at the October meeting with the understanding that the item would be brought back for consideration at the November meeting.

Staff has not conducted any additional analysis of the data since the October meeting. Staff indicated that they could take a look at a comparison of the newest survey with that conducted several years ago. A comparison could be made of those areas that were receiving service during both surveys. Additionally, those new areas served could be identified and reported, along with any areas that were eliminated with the route restructuring. A route-by-route analysis might also be conducted for the year-to-date. Mr. Rogers indicated that he would be hesitant to make route changes at this time because of the significant increase in ridership. Riders are getting used to the new routes and changes would most likely result in loss of ridership.

Commission members discussed the need for additional, focused analysis of the data. Specific areas for study were discussed. Councilor Barlow-Pieterick noted the importance of the transit-land use connection and the potential of the mixed-use concept along identified major arterials. Options, such as adding peak service in those areas with the greatest potential demand, were discussed as alternatives to revising the current successful route structure. Staff suggested time be allowed to evaluate and explore transportation alternatives other than fixed route for those areas with low density and minimal ridership. The Commission also discussed the activities of the City's Parking Commission, which is looking into a parking garage, as well as alternative modes, such as transit.

It was suggested that the potential issues for analysis be compared to the original goals of the route steering committee. It was also suggested that the City explore the possibility of using OSU or Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) students to conduct some of the analysis.

Staff will prepare a list of the possible issues for analysis, compare that to the steering committee goals, and explore the possibility of an OSU or LBCC class or club providing some of the analysis.

III. INFORMATION SHARING

- A. **Ridership Report.** Staff noted that October's ridership hit a new, all-time monthly high of **43,785**. This is a 13 percent increase over the 1998 October ridership and

continues the 1999-00 trend of exceeding last year's ridership by 16 percent.

The paratransit ridership count through September was also distributed. It was noted that there were nine ride turn downs in September. This represents a .35% turn down rate, which is low compared to the previous year.

- B. Holiday Trolley.** Letters have been mailed to those merchants who generously support the operation of the holiday trolley. Several letters of support have been returned. Staff will contact the remaining merchants to determine their participation in this year's service.
- C. Linn-Benton Loop Commission - October 14.** Commissioner Lowry and Steve Rogers reported on the most recent Linn-Benton Loop Commission meeting. Ridership on the Loop has also increased this year. The Loop financial report for the first quarter of 1999-00 included revenues from the previous year. Loop staff reported that the cost of one additional run per day would be \$8,560. The Loop is considering adding two additional runs. They are requesting information from Hewlett-Packard about their needs. The Loop is beginning to run into on-time performance issues because of the increased ridership. The Commission is looking at ways to expedite the service while still providing continuity between OSU and LBCC. One idea being explored is routing the Loop bus through the parking lot on the north side of Jefferson near the intersection with 15th Street. Commissioner Lowry requested that CACOT support a request to the University to accommodate this route option. The Commission asked to see a map of the existing intersection and parking lot and the proposed route. City staff will prepare the maps for the December CACOT meeting.
- D. Special Transportation Implementation.** Staff reported that the 1999 Legislature provided additional funding for senior and disabled transportation. The funds will be distributed in the same manner that the current Special Transportation Funds are distributed. Seventy-five percent are distributed to counties or transportation/transit districts based upon population. The remaining 25 percent is retained by the state,

along with flexed highway funds, for a discretionary grant program. The state is asking local STF committees to take a look at earlier priorities for the discretionary funds and report back to them. Additional details regarding these funds should be available by the December CACOT meeting.

- E. Y2K Preparations.** The City has identified and is addressing all the City's critical core activities, such as water and wastewater. In the area of transit service, which has not been determined to be a critical activity, the transit buses are Y2K compliant. Buses will operate as usual on Friday, December 31. They will not operate on January 1, a normal holiday, or Sunday, January 2. Buses will be fueled at the end of the day on December 31 and will run January 3 and 4 without requiring refueling. If there is no power at the Laidlaw facility, buses may be fueled at Public Works. Portable radios will be used to communicate with the dispatcher if power is unavailable to operate the base station.
- F. Transit Initiative Implementation.** Staff indicated that there is not much new information about implementing the transit measure since the previous meeting. The City's Personnel Department is continuing to work on determining the prevailing wage. Several questions were asked about this issue, including how often the prevailing wage would need to be revised and whether it was a one-time determination as a base. Those questions have not been answered. Staff is also continuing to evaluate the feasibility of bringing the service in-house. Information is being gathered from several similar-sized transit operations, and site visits may be planned in the near future. It was noted that the November 2 measure regarding a living wage for City contractors would not impact transit since City bus drivers are already receiving more than \$9.00 in salary and benefits.

III. ADJOURNMENT

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

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