

CORVALLIS CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

AGENDA

Wednesday; September 9, 1998; 7:50 a.m.

City Hall Conference Room D

501 S. W. Madison Avenue

- I. INTRODUCTIONS

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 12 and 26, 1998

- III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS (Items not on Agenda)

- IV. BIKE/BUS INTERACTIONS

- IV. INFORMATION SHARING
 - A. Ridership Report (fixed route and paratransit service)
 - B. Fall Festival Expanded Service - September 26 and 27
 - C. Try Transit Week - October 5 through 10
 - D. OSU Promotional Activities
 - E. November Meeting Day

- V. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, October 14, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, November ?, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

REMINDER: Subcommittee meeting immediately following CACOT.

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES

August 12, 1998

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chairman
Joanne Adler
Bill Hoffman
Caron Johnson
Lita Verts

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler
Roger McDonald, Dial-A-Bus

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller
Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Ridership Report	X		
daVinci Days	X		
Benton Co. Fair Shuttle	X		
Fall Festival	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission	X		
Try Transit Week - Oct 5-10	X		
Employer Tax Benefits	X		
Proposed Route Revisions		X	

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 8, 1998

The minutes were accepted as presented.

II. INFORMATION SHARING.

A. Ridership Report. The monthly ridership report was provided to the Commission. July ridership was the highest July in the system's history, with 34,793 rides provided. Staff suggested that the Commission wait for the August ridership to get a true ridership picture, since the timing of the Benton County Fair influences the July and August ridership. It was noted that the

Parks and Recreation summer programs are using the bus service to transport participants, as it has in the past. Additionally, the number of kids summer passes has increased steadily over the years and may influence summer ridership. Staff will increase promotion of the Kids Summer Pass next year.

- B. daVinci Days - July 18 and 19.** CTS provided expanded transportation during the weekend. Buses began at their regular Saturday start time both Saturday and Sunday (9:45 a.m.) and continued through their regular weekday ending schedule, approximately 7:20 p.m. Ridership information was provided by route showing a modest gain from 1,261 in 1997 to 1,336 in 1998. Staff will seek promotion of this service from daVinci Days, similar to that provided by the Fall Festival event.
- C. Benton County Fair Shuttle - July 28 through August 1.** A ridership table was distributed showing a slight increase over 1997. CTS and Benton County share the costs of the free shuttle service, which operated each day of the fair between the fairgrounds, OSU and downtown Corvallis.
- D. Fall Festival Expanded Service - September 26 and 27.** CTS will provide the same expanded service that was provided during daVinci Days (Saturday and Sunday). We will also display transit schedules/maps and the bicycle rack at the booth selling bicycle lights. The Fall Festival provides promotion of CTS service on their printed flyers and other promotional materials. They also distribute transit maps and other information at their information booth.
- E. Linn-Benton Loop Commission - July 23.** Staff and City Representative Bob Lowry attended the most recent meeting of the Loop Commission. One item suggested by Corvallis transit staff was the expansion of the Corvallis "Try Transit Week" event to encompass the regional transit systems of Albany Transit (ATS) and the Loop. The Commission was agreeable and the staff of each system will work together on possible promotional activities in addition to the free week of transit rides. It was suggested that a sample proclamation be provided to Linn and Benton County Commissioners, the Albany City Council, and Linn-Benton Community College, similar to that which has signed by the Corvallis Mayor, OSU President, and ASOSU President in previous years. It was noted that the Loop has received an increase in operating funding as a result of the implementation of the state operating formula. The Loop is facing the same issue as Corvallis Transit

System about replacement vehicles and, therefore, will not implement new service until the vehicle replacement funding issue has been resolved.

- F. Try Transit Week - October 5 through 10.** Staff noted that this year's Try Transit Week will be the first full week in October, as it has been in previous years. As noted in paragraph E above, the event will encompass other systems within the region. Promotional activities will be explored as time and resources permit.
- G. Employer Tax Benefits.** Staff provided information regarding the current tax benefits available to employers and employees through federal tax laws and state business energy tax credits. The IRS Code allows a tax free employee benefit of up to \$65 per month for transit passes. The compensation may be in the form of a transit pass, coupon books, etc. or a voucher in some specific amount that the employee could only use to purchase transit passes or coupon books or an employer can sell passes or coupon books at a discounted price to employees.

This information has been provided to Corvallis employers through a variety of venues for several years. Staff also distributed a letter prepared last year for Downtown Corvallis Association members by a local certified public accountant describing the federal tax benefit. The new federal transportation act (TEA-21) provides for an increase of the transit benefit to \$100 per month by December 31, 2001. Other transportation demand management incentives may be available through TEA-21, but a copy of the final text has not been received by staff.

III. PROPOSED ROUTE REVISIONS.

Staff has been working for several months with CTS drivers, CACOT members, and interested citizens to develop revisions to the existing route and schedule to better service CTS customers. Issues raised following the implementation of the new October 1997 schedule/map were also reviewed. Staff presented the proposed changes on a large-scale map, with copies distributed to CACOT members. A narrative was also

distributed and reviewed describing the changes. Commission members had several questions regarding the proposed changes.

Because two members of CACOT were absent and two members had to leave the meeting early, it was determined that the route revision discussion should be continued to a future special meeting, tentatively scheduled for August 27. Tom and Joanne Adler had also prepared a proposal for consideration by CACOT. The Adler route proposal, staff proposal and other handouts will be distributed by staff to those not present so that they will have an opportunity to review the material prior to the special meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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Future Meetings:

Wednesday, August 27, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, September 9, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, October 15, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES

August 26, 1998

Members Present

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

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler
Bob Lowry
Mary McCoy

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Proposed Route Revisions			Approved staff's proposed changes and established subcommittee

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. VISITOR COMMENTS

Mary McCoy appeared before the Commission to indicate that she does not like the new routes, although she does like the east-west connection. She would like to see 15-minute frequency throughout Corvallis. She would also like to see expanded service to areas such as Highway 99W, Peoria Road, and 2nd Street north of the downtown area. She noted that the Linn-Benton Loop also does not meet her travel needs because of frequency and service areas.

Bob Lowry noted that he had served on the Commission for many years. The new schedule does not permit him to use the bus system as much as he had in the past.

II. PROPOSED ROUTE REVISIONS

Chairman Anderson asked for discussion regarding the proposed route revisions. Those Commission members who were not at the August 12 meeting had received information regarding the proposed routes prior to the August 26 meeting, including the proposal submitted by Tom Adler.

Bob Lowry made a presentation. He made several points, including: Large loops increase travel time and discourage the discretionary rider; need to begin looking at major changes for fall of 1999 and include looking at key areas; seek support from City's Capital Improvement Program process to establish turnarounds to accommodate 2-way transit routes; work with City planners and policy makers to assure that street system will accommodate transit; through routing for some routes through downtown; increase communication with the community regarding transit needs; tell Oregon State University they need to open up more streets to buses and modify the entrance station. He felt that the ridership decrease was due to a loss of the discretionary rider. He also noted that changes that are made as a result of a major effort should remain in place for a couple years.

Steve Rogers noted that we could continue in the next year to evaluate transit service and gather the data needed to make major changes, noting that surveys would take time. He noted that last year's changes had been in place less than a year and the service route had been in place for less than six months. If we made major changes now, we would most likely lose riders. He also outlined several issues that would need to be addressed and processes that would take time.

A general discussion followed regarding the types of information desired and potential methods to collect data and input.

Commissioner Verts indicated that many people in South Corvallis are not discretionary riders; they have fewer options. Commissioner Adler would like to see service restored to Witham Hill, 29th Street, and 10th Street. Commissioner Johnson noted that there has been significant growth in other areas of town, such as southwest and northeast Corvallis, and no growth on Witham Hill.

Chairman Anderson indicated that the Commission needed additional information before making major changes. He suggested that a subcommittee be formed to address the route issue, with the goal of presenting suggested revisions in time for implementation in September 1999. Commissioners Adler and Johnson, Chairman Anderson, and Mr. Lowry volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. The subcommittee will meet each month.

The Commission then discussed the minor route/schedule changes suggested by staff at the August 12 meeting. Following discussion, the Commission approved the proposed changes with Commissioner Adler voting "no".

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III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.