

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	Informa- tion 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.