

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES

October 14, 1998

Members Present

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

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler
Mary McCoy

Absent - Excused

Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Exact Fare Policy			Retain current policy
Ridership Report	X		
Fall Festival	X		
Try Transit Week - Oct 5-10	X		
OSU Promotional Activities	X		
Status of Laidlaw Labor Negotiations	X		
CACOT Regular Meeting Date			Move to first Wednesday of the month

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 9, 1998

The minutes were accepted as presented.

II. EXACT FARE POLICY

As requested by CACOT at the September 9 meeting, staff presented information regarding the past practice of the "exact fare policy" and the impacts of two suggested

alternatives. CTS has had an exact fare policy since the beginning of the system in 1980. All other transit systems in Oregon have an exact fare policy. One alternative was to make change using coupons. Two main issues are associated with this alternative. Drivers do not have access to any form of payment. All payments are collected by City staff to assure fiscal control. Second, making change using coupons would be time consuming, particularly if someone presented a \$5.00 or \$10.00 bill. The second alternative was to ask customers to pay the next time they rode. Monitoring such a procedure would be impossible since there are as many as 18 drivers driving 11 different routes throughout the day. The potential for abuse would be significant and would place the bus operators in a difficult position. For the above reasons, the "exact fare policy" will remain in place.

II. INFORMATION SHARING

- A. **Ridership Report.** The monthly ridership report was provided to the Commission. September ridership was 28,025, compared to 30,127 for the same month last year.
- B. **Fall Festival Expanded Service - September 26 and 27.** A table showing ridership for Fall Festival from 1992 through 1998 was provided. This year's ridership for the weekend was 1,664. Saturday ridership (1,074) continues to be significantly higher than Sunday (590). The Commission supports continuing the Sunday service next year.
- C. **© Try Transit Week - October 5 through 10.** Staff reported that ridership for the sixth annual Try Transit Week was 9,575. This is more than a 12 percent increase over last year's weekly total of 8,549. Bus operators indicated that they saw new customers on board and increased ridership since OSU classes began. It was noted that this year's event was promoted through the Footwise window display at the corner of 3rd and Madison. This is also the first year that the Linn-Benton Loop and Albany Transit System have participated in this event.
- D. **OSU Promotional Activities.** CTS staff participated in two on-campus events. The first was University Day. This event is held by the President's office at the beginning of the year for faculty and staff. The

second was the Where It's @ event, which was held the Friday before classes started primarily for in-coming students. Both events were deemed successful in promoting the group pass program to OSU faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, the OSU brochure describing the uses for the OSU student ID card now includes information about the group pass program. The OSU staff/faculty brochure will be revised to include the information. An advertisement was also placed in the OSU annual calendar which is heavily used by students throughout the year. Student response has been good.

- E. CACOT Regular Meeting Day.** Council liaison to the Commission, Ed Barlow-Pieterick, is participating in Leadership Corvallis this year, which meets on the second Wednesday of the month. The Commission appreciates Councilor Barlow-Pieterick's participation in Commission meetings and, therefore, moved its regularly scheduled meeting time to the first Wednesday of each month. The time and place will remain the same, 7:50 a.m. in City Hall Conference Room D. This change is effective November 4, 1998.
- F. Laidlaw Labor Negotiations.** Staff reported on the status of negotiations between Laidlaw and the local Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), representing CTS and Corvallis School District 509J bus operators and mechanics. A vote was expected Wednesday evening, October 14. It was noted that the City does have the right to operate the system in the event of a strike but that the City has no intention of doing so at this time. The City expects Laidlaw to continue to operate the system even though they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the current contract. Laidlaw is compensated based upon revenue service hours provided.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

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Future Meetings:

Wednesday, November 4, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, December 2, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, January 6, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D