

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES

November 4, 1998

Members Present

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

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Tom Adler

Absent - Unexcused

Dan Preller
Ryan Tateishi

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Ridership Report	X		
City's Financial Policy Re: Property Tax Allocations		X	
Holiday Trolley	X		
Status of Service Route Bus	X		
Status of Laidlaw Labor Negotiations	X		
OSU Football Games and Transit	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission Meeting	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 14, 1998

The minutes were accepted as presented.

II. VISITOR'S COMMENTS (Items not on agenda)

Nancy Brewer, the City's Finance Director, appeared before the Commission to provide information on a proposed revision to the City's Financial Policy regarding property tax allocations. She provided background regarding the history of funding transit through special 3-year serial levies and the impact of State Measures 47 and 50 on such temporary levies. Measures 47/50

eliminated serial levies and made them permanent. The City now has one tax rate, with all temporary levies included. Based on the percentage allocation that each converted levy receives, various City funds would be broke at different times. The proposed policy would shift existing revenues between the funds to provide for continuation of all current City services until such time as expenses exceeded revenues City-wide. A policy decision would need to be made to either reduce services or seek voter approval of a tax increase. Efforts will continue to become more efficient within existing resources. Based upon current 5-year projections, Ms. Brewer speculated that current revenue and expense estimates would require a decision 6 months before the 2002 or 2004 election cycle. In response to a question, Ms. Brewer indicated that if a request to the voters for additional tax revenues failed, the City could need to cut services.

II. INFORMATION SHARING

- A. **Ridership Report.** The monthly ridership report was provided to the Commission. October ridership was 38,716, compared to 35,086 for the same month last year and is the second highest October in the history of the system. It was speculated that the increase was primarily due to increased OSU ridership. The annual OSU survey, conducted the last week in January and first week in February will provide specific OSU ridership information. Staff briefly reviewed the data and noted that Routes 3, 6, and 5 are the strongest. Route 5, which travels from downtown via Monroe to Kings Blvd. and then north to Timberhill Shopping Center and back has increased significantly. This route receives 30-minute service.
- B. **Holiday Trolley.** The letters to local merchants for support of the holiday trolley were mailed in October. All but three businesses have responded, indicating their support. The deadline for response is November 6. This year's holiday trolley will operate December 12 through December 31.
- C. **Status of Service Route Bus.** The service route bus is being manufactured as this time, with an anticipated delivery date of November 30. The bus will then be inspected and put in to service by mid-December.
- D. **Status of Laidlaw Negotiations.** CTS staff reported that the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) will present a

proposal to the local union membership for a vote on November 12. If the proposal is not accepted, the parties can return to the bargaining table or seek arbitration or the membership can strike. Commission members asked about the issue of driver wages and City operation of the transit service. Staff had conducted a preliminary estimate of costs for the City to operate the buses. The conclusion was that it would be significantly more costly for the City to provide the service. It was noted that one benefit would be the City's ability to influence driver performance.

- E. OSU Football Games and Transit.** City staff worked with local law enforcement agencies and OSU security to facilitate regular transit service near Parker Stadium during home football games. Problems were encountered during one of the first games. The City's Police Department staff were responsive to the problems encountered and additional efforts made for the October 31 game. Buses are receiving priority routing on 26th and 15th Streets, which may encourage greater transit usage.

- F. Linn Benton Loop Commission.** Staff reported on the quarterly Linn-Benton Loop Commission meeting, held in October. The discussion centered around the possible expansion of the schedule beginning in the spring. Additional funding is available through the revised state process for distributing the federal transit dollars for Oregon's small city/rural program (Section 5311). Discussions will continue at the January 1999 meeting when additional revenue and cost projections are available.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

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Future Meetings:

Wednesday, December 2, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, January 6, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, February 3, 7:50 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D