

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES

May 8, 1997

Members Present

Bill Hoffman, Vice Chair
Joanne Adler
Craig Anderson
Jonathan Cardozo
Caron Johnson

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Jerry Langstraat, Open Door, Inc.
Tom Adler

Members Excused

Bob Lowry
Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

| Agenda Item | Information Only | Held for Further Review | Recommendations/Action |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bike Racks on Buses Program | X | June CACOT Mtg. | |
| Ridership Report | X | | |
| Transportation Alternatives Analysis | X | | |
| OSU Mom's Weekend Trolley Service | X | | |
| Transit Web Site | X | | |
| OSU/ASOSU Group Pass Program | X | | |
| Downtown Intermodal Mall | X | | |
| Kids Summer Pass | X | | |
| Transit Master Plan | X | | |

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 10 and 17, 1997

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. BIKES ON BUSES PROGRAM

Staff reported that CACOT had discussed this program in 1995

as a result of input from the Corvallis Bicycle Advisory Commission. CACOT indicated its support of the program if funding could be found. The Budget Commission and City Council included funds in the 1996-97 budget to implement this program. Because of time commitments, the staff report on the implementation of this program was deferred to the June CACOT meeting. Several issues relate to the downtown terminal and the Transit Master Plan.

III. INFORMATION SHARING

- A. **Ridership Report - April 1997.** Staff reported that April's ridership was 39,307. This is another ridership record for the month of April and the second highest monthly ridership for the fixed route system.
- B. **Transportation Alternatives Analysis.** Commission member Anderson reported that the TAA Steering Committee had met recently. A public open house on the draft TAA preferred alternative will most likely be held during May. The draft Chapter 11, which contains the proposed preferred transportation alternative, upon adoption will become part of the Corvallis Transportation Plan. The draft document was reviewed and revisions made. Further refinements will occur during the summer months. A copy of the revised draft chapter and/or whatever other information may be available before the open house, will be provided to CACOT members.
- C. **OSU Mom's Weekend Trolley Service.** Staff reported that 615 rides were provided on Saturday, May 3, as part of the OSU Mom's Weekend activities. This is a considerable increase over previous years' ridership and will most likely be offered again next year. CTS provided the trolley service, and the Downtown Corvallis Association and OSU Memorial Union Activities representatives were responsible for promoting the service to the community and on campus.
- D. **Transit Web Site.** Commission member Cardozo has volunteered his time to develop the CTS web page. He presented a copy of the information included to date, including the transit schedule, maps, fare rates, pictures of the buses and trolley, information regarding paratransit service, the OSU group pass

program, and the size of buses. Additional information will be added.

- E. OSU/ASOSU Group Pass Program.** Staff reported that the OSU staff group pass program is included in OSU's budget, which is currently before the Legislature. A final decision should be known by mid-June. The student group pass program was approved by the student fees committee for consideration by the student senate. No information has been provided by ASOSU regarding the student senate's consideration.
- F. Downtown Intermodal Mall.** This project was forwarded to the Urban Services Committee of the Council for consideration. Further action on this item will be held until action on the Transit Master Plan is complete. One consideration is that the downtown intermodal mall project is partially funded by an ODOT grant which expires in March 1998. The ODOT funds are programmed for land acquisition, and any land acquisition process may take time to complete if the City is unable to negotiate an acceptable purchase price with a property owner.
- G. Kids Summer Pass Program.** CTS will again be offering an unlimited ride kids pass this summer. The City has offered this pass for the last four summers. The number of passes sold has increased each year as awareness of the program has grown. Efforts to promote this program include: public access television, the Spring/Summer Parks and Recreation Bulletin and summer registration, newspaper ads, press release, direct contact with middle school children through the "design an ad" contest, and posting of information throughout the community, Hewlett-Packard, and City facilities. It was suggested that the information be provided to OSU faculty and staff through their newsletter.
- H. Transit Master Plan.** Staff reported that the City Council had received the draft Transit Master Plan at their May 5 meeting. Several members of the public spoke to the Council under "visitor's propositions" regarding service to Samaritan Village.

Jarrett Walker, the City's consultant, presented the plan to the Council. Council asked many questions.

They wanted to know the implications of delaying implementation after September 1. They also asked about alternatives to serve Samaritan Village. One Councilor asked about the City's paratransit service and indicated that it needs to be improved. The Council did accept the document and referred it to Urban Services Committee. Urban Services will hold a special meeting on May 22, 1997 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library main meeting room to consider the draft Transit Master Plan.

Commission member Adler attended the Council meeting and indicated there was a lot of concern about the lack of emphasis on paratransit service and that the 5-block service goal should remain. She indicated that everyone was concerned about Samaritan Village and that Council may focus on that location.

Staff indicated that the question is whether or not to retain the broad coverage area or move toward intensifying service along major corridors where the transit demand is the highest and most productive. The Commission did not choose to revise its original position on the plan.

Some Commission members expressed concern about delaying implementation of the plan beyond September 1. Several also expressed concern about providing special service to a small group at the expense of the remainder of the community.

It was also noted that the transit master plan was not intended to be a paratransit plan. Staff and Commission members recognize that the City's paratransit service must be provided in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and that performance issues need to be addressed with the City's provider, just as any performance issues are addressed with the City's fixed route transit provider, Laidlaw. Several paratransit service issues were identified, such as professionalism of Dial-A-Bus staff and capacity issues. Staff did note that the City's paratransit service exceeds the requirements of the ADA by providing service throughout the entire City. The ADA only requires service within a 3/4 mile corridor along the existing fixed route service.

Commission members were provided with a copy of the memorandum transmitting the draft Transit Master Plan to City Council and copies of Joanne Adler's letter to Council and her letter to the editor. Commission members were encouraged to attend the May 22 Urban Service Committee to provide information regarding transit service in Corvallis.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Future Meetings:

June 12, 1997; 7:50 a.m.; City Hall Conference Room D
July 10, 1997; 7:50 a.m.; City Hall Conference Room D