

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES

September 11, 1997

Members Present

Bob Lowry, Chairman
 Joanne Adler
 Craig Anderson
 Bill Hoffman
 Ed Barlow-Pieterick, Councilor

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
 Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Mayor Helen Berg
 Tom Adler
 Roger McDonald, Dial-A-Bus

Absent

Jonathan Cardozo - Excused
 Caron Johnson - Excused

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
CACOT Meeting Date and Time			Regularly scheduled meeting time revised
Ridership Report	X		
Saturday Ridership Report	X		
Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership	X		
Rack and Roll tour '97	X		
OSU Events - September 16 and 26	X		
Fall Festival - Sept. 27 and 28	X		
Try Transit Wk '97 - Oct. 20-25	X		
New Buses	X		
Annual ODOT Operating Grant	X		
City of Philomath Meeting	X		
Mayor's Recognition - Bob Lowry	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - August 14, 1997

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. CACOT/VISITORS' COMMENTS

Chairman Lowry provided a cost analysis of the various buses discussed for the "service" route. He also indicated that he did not feel that a 31-foot bus would be perceived as being much smaller than the 35-foot buses. It was pointed out that the proposed smaller bus would also be narrower. Concern was expressed that a vehicle smaller than 31 feet would not meet the service demand at the rate ridership is growing. It was noted by CACOT members who regularly ride the bus that currently during peak times there is standing room only. Perception of large, empty buses by some members of the public is not unique to Corvallis, and public education on this issue is important.

Mayor Berg reported that she had a visit from a woman from Williamsburg, Virginia last summer who read about the Corvallis federal grant for the downtown intermodal mall in USA Today during her flight to Oregon. She was interested in pursuing a similar project in Williamsburg. The Mayor of Williamsburg has since contacted Mayor Berg and requested additional information regarding the project. A copy of the consultant's report has been forwarded to Williamsburg. Mayor Berg recognized the efforts of staff and the reputation of the Corvallis Transit System as instrumental in gaining funding for the project.

III. CACOT MEETING DATE AND TIME

CACOT members were surveyed to determine which days and times were preferred for a new meeting date and time. The time of 7:50 a.m. continues to be the preferred time. Two dates worked for everyone. The date is either the second Tuesday of the month or the third Wednesday. CACOT members did not have a date preference. Staff will contact the new CACOT member to determine if he has a preference. The new date and time will be implemented with the October meeting.

IV. INFORMATION SHARING

- A. Ridership Report.** August's ridership was 30,511. August 1996 ridership was 33,009. A comparison of the July/August ridership for 1997 and 1996 showed 63,527 and 66,047 respectively.
- B. Saturday Ridership Report.** A review of Saturday ridership was requested at the August CACOT meeting. Staff presented a report showing an increase in Saturday ridership as a percentage of overall

ridership. Although Saturday ridership is not as high as weekday ridership, the gap is closing. It was also noted that CTS operates shorter hours on Saturday, which may not be convenient for those who work.

- C. Senior/Youth/Disabled Ridership Count.** Staff is conducting an on-board survey the week of September 8-13 similar to the annual survey conducted to determine OSU ridership. The survey is being conducted to establish a snapshot of the customer base. It is conducted by the drivers through observation and knowledge of customers. Customers qualifying in these categories utilize discounted fares and color coded passes and coupons.
- D. Rack and Roll Tour '97.** Staff reported on the Rack and Roll Tour that traveled through Corvallis on Friday, September 5. Three Seattle residents were traveling from Seattle to San Francisco utilizing bikes on buses programs. Approximately 15 people met the tour group, who arrived on the Linn-Benton Loop bus. They were welcomed by Mayor Berg in Central Park and treated to lunch. The tour group was able to confirm that the bicycle racks which the City has purchased (Sportworks) are the best racks that they have used. The City's demonstration bike rack was available and many local bicyclists took the opportunity to try the rack. The group was then escorted to Bellfountain Road where they continued bicycling to Junction City to meet a Lane Transit bus. Mayor Berg indicated that one of the group's goals was to advocate for government support of bicycle and transit facilities and the reauthorization of ISTEPA. The group was pleased with Corvallis's bike and transit systems. They also were pleased and supported Corvallis's use of their name, Rack and Roll, for the City's bikes-on-buses program. Promotional materials are being prepared, and the racks will be added to CTS buses after implementation of the new route structure.
- E. OSU Events - September 16 and 26.** Staff reported on two events which are coming up soon that provide an opportunity to promote transit service to OSU faculty, staff and students. University Day is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, at LaSells Stewart Center. Faculty and staff will be provided information

regarding the transit group pass program, other transit information, and an opportunity to see and try the demonstration bicycle rack. This opportunity is provided through the efforts of Lee Schroeder, OSU Vice President Finance and Administration (acting Athletic Director). The second event is the Chamber/OSU Where It's @. This event is focused on providing information to students about services and merchandise available from area businesses. CTS will display information, distribute new transit guides and route maps, and provide an opportunity to try the demonstration bike rack. Trolley rides will also be provided to educate students about the group pass program and the transit routes. CACOT members desiring to assist with these efforts are to contact staff.

- F. Fall Festival- September 27 and 28.** As in past years, CTS will provide free rides on Saturday and Sunday from 9:45 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. This has provided a valuable service to the community by eliminating some traffic congestion. Fall Festival helps to promote CTS's weekend service by inclusion on its flyers.
- G. Try Transit Week '97.** This year's Try Transit Week will be held the third week in October to coincide with a joint Oregon/Washington rideshare week. Statewide recognition is expected through a Governor's proclamation and public service announcements. CTS will provide free rides during the week to promote transit service and give the community an opportunity to try the new transit routes.
- H. New Buses.** Staff reported that the two new buses have arrived in Corvallis following a thorough inspection by Lane Transit District staff. Additional work will be completed in Corvallis prior to placing the buses in service. CACOT member Hoffman brought a picture of the new low-floor light rail vehicles being brought on-line on Portland's MAX service.
- I. ODOT Operating Grant - 1997-98.** Staff reported that the grant application for the annual operating assistance grant had been filed with the State of Oregon. The grant amount has remained the same for the last nine (9) years, \$60,350. The state has committed to improving the timeliness of payments for 1997-98.

Staff also noted that the State Public Transit Section held a meeting within the last two weeks to discuss future transit funding and revisions in the formula for the federal small city funds. No decisions have been made as of this time.

J. City of Philomath Meeting. Staff was invited to meet with the City of Philomath Transportation and Traffic Safety Commission to provide information regarding bus service opportunities between Corvallis and Philomath. The meeting is scheduled for September 11 and the outcome will be reported at the October CACOT meeting. It was noted that the Corvallis Comprehensive Plan contains a transit policy which states the City's interest in a trial bus service between Corvallis and Philomath. It was also noted that at the recent meeting in Salem, staff had met a representative from Cottage Grove who described what that community is doing to address public transportation. The community passed a measure as a result of an initiative petition to require Cottage Grove to enter into a contract with Lane Transit to provide bus service for 12 to 24 months. The purpose was to determine the demand for service and feasibility of future transit service in Cottage Grove. Service will begin in the next few weeks for 12 months. This information will be shared with the City of Philomath.

V. RECOGNITION EVENT. Mayor Berg noted that this was Bob Lowry's last official meeting as a member of CACOT. She recognized his service to Corvallis for the last 11 years and his efforts on the local, state, and regional level to advocate for transit. She read a letter of appreciation and presented it to him, noting the accomplishments which have been achieved during the last 11 years. Staff presented Mr. Lowry with a card and plant on behalf of the many staff and CACOT members with whom Mr. Lowry has worked and assisted over the years. Mr. Lowry will continue to serve Corvallis as a member of the Linn-Benton Loop Commission.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.