

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT**

MINUTES

January 11, 1996 (As corrected)

Members Present

Robert Lowry, Chair  
 Joanne Adler  
 Tom Meehan  
 Craig Anderson  
 Caron Johnson  
 Mary Christian, Council Liaison  
 Paul Amato, ASOSU Rep.

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works  
 Steve Rogers, Public Works

Visitors

Rich Mulholland, The ARC  
 Art Koebel, Home Life  
 Tim Rocak, Bonney Enterprises  
 Pam Cook, Open Door  
 Mary McCoy

Excused

Bill Hoffman

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) 1996 Plan Update			Recommend Council approval of plan update
CACOT Meeting Place	X		
Corvallis Transportation Plan-Transit Chapter	X	Special Meeting - Jan. 18	
Ridership Report - Dec.	X		
Holiday Trolley	X		
OSU Survey	X		
Customer Conduct Rules		February Mtg.	

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 14, 1995**

The minutes of the December 14, 1995 meeting were approved as submitted. Chairman Lowry noted that the Commission does have a special meeting at 7:45 a.m. on January 18, 1996, at the City Hall Development Services Conference Room.

**II. VISITOR COMMENTS**

Mary McCoy asked about stopping on South 3rd at Avery Lane. Chairman Lowry indicated that the matter had been discussed at the previous Commission meeting. Ms. Barrett indicated

that the issue had been discussed at the November CTS driver's meeting. Since that time all drivers are stopping as close to the Avery Lane/South 3rd intersection as safely possible for those passengers who wish to access Avery Park.

### **III. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 1996 UPDATE**

Chairman Lowry opened the public hearing. Staff presented a brief background of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, noting that one requirement of the Act was that fixed route transit providers provide complementary paratransit service to disabled persons who are unable to use the fixed route service. The ADA required fixed route providers to file an implementation plan in 1992 and then to file annual updates indicating their progress. The ADA requires full implementation of the service by January 27, 1997.

Since adoption of its 1992 Plan, the City has met, and in some cases, exceeded its original annual commitments to implement the service. To date 74 disabled persons have been certified to use the service. The last element was implemented on January 5, 1996; and therefore, the City is in full compliance with the requirements of the ADA paratransit provisions. The City's paratransit service is currently provided by Dial-A-Bus. The City contracts with the Senior Council of Benton County, Inc., which operates Dial-A-Bus. Copies of the implementation schedule were distributed.

Art Koebel, representing Home Life, Inc. spoke to the Commission regarding the increased number of rides that are required for his clients. He noted that working with Dial-A-Bus has been a good step forward in meeting the needs of persons with disabilities. He expressed his concern that the service needs to be done in a more professional manner. He also discussed the City's responsibility for providing paratransit service and the unique relationship that the service has with Benton County, because of the Special Transportation Funding, which is administered by Benton County. He also expressed his concern that six or seven years ago extension of regular bus service to Bonney Enterprises seemed to take a long time. At that time Bonney Enterprises operated a vocational rehabilitation site west of 53rd Street. He felt that the City should take a greater role in providing disabled transportation services. He also noted that the Special Transportation Fund is a declining revenue source and that the City should include some additional funding for special transportation in its transit levy. He also asked that a sliding fee schedule be considered since many of his clients are unable to pay the current fee. He requested better coordination to provide

the needed services. He feels that Dial-A-Bus is unable to handle the volume of rides that would be needed if his agency and others did not provide the rides they are currently providing. In response to a question, he indicated some of those rides, approximately 20 percent, are provided outside of the regular transit service hours.

Mary McCoy indicated that people who rely on the bus have no service at night, have shorter hours on Saturday, and have no service on Sunday.

Tim Rocak, representing Bonney Enterprises, expressed his concern that special transportation is provided by the City and County and the coordination issues that creates. He indicated that he serves 70 disabled persons and that he used to get rides for free and now he has to pay for them. He also noted that it is Bonney's goal to integrate its clients into the community and would like to keep them part of a bigger system instead of setting up a separate system for them. He would like to see Dial-A-Bus more integrated. He expressed his concern that a service established for getting some of his clients from home to work and work to home [contract services] and which was in place for some time [began in January 1995] had recently been eliminated. [The service was provided by a contract between Benton County and the two providers--Home Life and The ARC.] He also asked that the City increase the transit levy to cover the cost of providing transportation for all the disabled in the community.

The Commission asked for information regarding the number of rides that were being provided by the various providers. Ms. Barrett noted that she would gather that information for the next Commission meeting. Additionally, Ms. Barrett indicated that she is a member of the Special Transportation Advisory Committee and that she had made a presentation to the Benton County Senior Council Executive Board and their Transportation Committee the day before concerning special transportation in Benton County. She will make that same presentation at the next Commission meeting to provide background information for the Commission. Ms. Barrett noted that the contract service which had been in place for almost a year is not an ADA required service but that it benefits those disabled persons and their care givers by providing a more direct, specialized service. Under the ADA, the rides provided by contract services [scheduled daily rides to and from established points] are defined as "subscription" service. There is no requirement under the ADA to provide "subscription" service.

Rich Mulholland, representing The ARC, noted that he is new

at The ARC. He supported the comments made by Mr. Koebel and by Mr. Rocak. He indicated that The ARC had been one of the contract service providers and that he had met with City staff to discuss The ARC's continuation of the service. [The City currently has a contract with Benton County to administer the Special Transportation Fund program. The negotiations with The ARC were unsuccessful.] The ARC offered to provide training to drivers regarding the special needs of the disabled clients.

Pam Cook, Open Door, noted that many of their clients use the regular bus service and thanked City staff for providing the bus shelter to facilitate that usage. She had attended the previous day's presentation to the Senior Council and suggested that a similar presentation be made to the Commission.

Staff indicated their concerns for the overall special transportation program and that staff is participating in those efforts to coordinate and improve the service to seniors and the disabled in our community. It was noted that if agencies represented at the meeting were to shift all of the rides they are currently providing to Dial-A-Bus, that would most likely result in at least an immediate inability of Dial-A-Bus to respond to all of the increased demand.

It was agreed that currently the City is in full compliance with its ADA Paratransit Plan. If the capacity on the ADA's paratransit provider was not able to meet the service demand, that the City would seek to increase the service level to continue to meet the need in accordance with the ADA.

The Commission recommends that the City Council adopt the 1996 ADA Paratransit Plan Update by resolution. The plan is to be filed with the Oregon Department of Transportation by January 26, 1996.

The broader issue of how all of the special transportation services, including the ADA service, are being provided for seniors and disabled persons in the community will be discussed at the Commission's February 1996 meeting.

#### **IV. CACOT MEETING PLACE**

Because of increased demand for senior programs at the City's Senior Center, the Commission will no longer be able to meet at the Senior Center after the March 1996 meeting. Staff will seek a new location.

#### **V. INFORMATION SHARING**

- A. Ridership Report - December. Staff distributed the ridership report showing that 34,069 rides had been provided in December. For the first six months of 1995-96 ridership is at 188,596, compared to 137,734 for the same time period last year. We are continuing on a record-setting pace.
- B. Holiday Trolley. This year's holiday trolley provided a record number of rides--7,127. This is a 29 percent increase over the 5,548 rides provided in 1994, operating the same number of days.
- C. OSU Survey. Staff informed the Commission that it will be conducting a survey of OSU ridership for two weeks, beginning January 22. The survey identifies riders as OSU faculty, staff, or student. This survey has been conducted for the last three years during approximately the same time of year. The information has been shared with the University and ASOSU and has been helpful in our annual discussions of the OSU/ASOSU group pass program.
- D. Passenger Conduct. At a recent staff meeting with CTS drivers, several issues were discussed regarding passenger conduct. These issues may need to be addressed with formal rules/regulations regarding passenger conduct. Staff has requested rules/regulations from other Oregon transit providers. A report will be made at the next CACOT meeting.

#### **VI. CORVALLIS TRANSPORTATION PLAN.**

Copies of a draft, revised Transit Chapter for the City's Transportation Plan were previously mailed to each CACOT member. Council liaison Christian encouraged the Commission to review the draft chapter in detail. She assured the Commission that the City Council would also be reviewing the document page by page. Because of the lateness of the hour and the departure of several Commission members, discussion of this item was delayed until the special January 18, 1996 CACOT meeting on this subject.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

February 8, 1996; 7:45 a.m., Senior Center Conference Room  
March 14, 1996; 7:45 a.m., Senior Center Conference Room  
April 11, 1996; 7:45 a.m.,  
May 9, 1996; 7:45 a.m.,