

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES
 April 11, 1996

Members Present

Robert Lowry, Chair
 Joanne Adler
 Bill Hoffman
 Craig Anderson
 Tom Meehan
 Mary Christian, Council Liaison

Members Absent

Paul Amato, ASOSU Rep.

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
 Steve Rogers, Public Works
 Jim Brewer, Deputy City Attorney

Members Excused

Caron Johnson

Visitors

Mary McCoy

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa- tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Proposed Bus Exterior Painting Project		June Meeting	
Passenger Conduct		May Public Hearing	
Governor's Transportation Initiative	X		
Ridership Report - March	X		
OSU Survey Results	X		
OSU Group Pass Program	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Commission	X		
Youth Vol. Corps - Food Drive	X		
Promotional Activities	X		
Pedestrian Issues		May or June Meeting	
Bus Stop Pad	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 14, 1996

The minutes of the March 14 meeting were approved as corrected.

II. PROPOSED BUS EXTERIOR PAINTING PROJECT

The additional information requested by CACOT has not been received from the Arts Center. This item was continued to the June meeting.

III. PASSENGER CONDUCT

A memorandum was forwarded to Commission members providing the background for this item, discussing the issues which have prompted this matter, describing the current Corvallis rules and rules established by other transit agencies, transmitting a draft Code of Conduct for the Transit System, and recommending a Commission process for consideration.

The Commission reviewed the memorandum and draft Code of Conduct. Councilor Christian expressed her concern that many of the provisions had First Amendment, free speech considerations. She noted that she had discussed this concern with Deputy City Attorney Brewer prior to the meeting and that he had indicated that the provisions came within the limits established by the Supreme Court, noting that the proposed provisions established community conduct standards. Several specific provisions were discussed, including repulsive odors, talking to the driver while the bus is in operation, canvassing or soliciting for any purpose, unreasonable noise, fighting words and obscenities, weapons, beverage containers, and the appeals provisions.

Deputy City Attorney Brewer described the City's ability to more severely restrict bus system activities because of its proprietary nature, being more closely associated with operating a business and charging a fee for the service as opposed to a strictly governmental function, such as the library. He noted the differences between public areas such as parks and public sidewalks and transit vehicles/shelters.

The Commission agreed to hold a public meeting on May 16, at 5:30 p.m. to receive public input on the proposed Code. The location of the meeting will be determined at a later date, possibly in the Central Park Municipal Building, 8th and Madison. At their June meeting, the Commission may make additional revisions based upon public testimony and further consideration of the draft Code and recommend the Code to the City Council. This issue will then proceed to Council through the Council's Urban Service Committee.

The Commission will take several steps to assure transit passengers and other stakeholders have an opportunity to provide their input. Bus passengers will be given priority to give their testimony at the public meeting and alternative transportation will be provided, possibly through Dial-A-Bus. Additionally, written testimony may be provided until 5 p.m., Thursday, May 16.

V. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Governor's Transportation Initiative. Staff reported that

Governor Kitzhaber has begun a transportation initiative to address statewide transportation issues. Five regional advisory committees (RAC's) were formed to gather input from their respective communities and make recommendations to a statewide advisory committee (SAC). Commission Chair Lowry, staff member Barrett, and Mayor Berg attended the first meeting of the Northwest Regional Committee in mid-March. Mayor Berg noted several community transportation issues, identified transportation needs and gaps, and suggested possible solutions. The regional meetings should be concluded in May. The statewide committee is expected to make recommendations which could be the basis of proposed legislation during the 1997 legislative session.

- B. **Ridership Report - Record March.** Staff distributed the ridership report showing that 32,725 rides had been provided in March. Another new all-time monthly ridership record was established. Staff noted that ridership has exceeded the previous year's monthly ridership for the past 18 months and projects that if ridership continues at the monthly average, we should reach a new annual ridership record sometime during May.
- C. **OSU Survey Results.** Staff distributed the results of a survey conducted for two weeks the end of January, first part of February. The survey has been conducted for the last four years. Survey results show that student and faculty/staff ridership increased during the 1995 and 1996 but they are not as high as they were in 1993. The group pass program was discontinued in 1994, when OSU ridership dropped approximately 62 percent from 1993. Non-OSU ridership is growing as a percentage of rides.
- D. **OSU Group Pass Program.** Staff reported that they had met with the ASOSU student fees committee the previous week. The student fees committee had very few questions and unanimously supported continuation of the student group pass program. It was noted that OSU administration has indicated that they do not know at this time whether or not the faculty/staff group pass program will be continued next year.
- E. **Linn-Benton Loop Commission Meeting - April 10.** Chairman Lowry reported that the meeting focused on the budget. He noted that Linn County has withdrawn its support of the Loop. Two other items were discussed. One was the consideration of a schedule change. The change would result in the Loop bus discontinuing its stop at 15th and Jefferson and instead, OSU-bound passengers would transfer to CTS buses. CTS buses provide more convenient access to campus. OSU students would not have an additional fare because of the group pass program. Further investigation of this proposal will occur in future months. Chairman Lowry also noted several traffic pattern and signal

changes in Linn County which will impact Loop service.

- F. **Transit Master Plan.** Staff noted that the City has received a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) grant from the Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) and the Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to prepare a Transit Master Plan. The City has selected a consulting firm, Nelson/Nygaard, to complete the project. The consultant assigned to the project is Jarrett Walker. The consulting firm is well known for work in developing transit plans. Work on this project is expected to begin in May and will take approximately one year to complete. CACOT will be involved in this project throughout the year.
- G. **Youth Volunteer Corps - Food Drive.** Staff reported that arrangements have been completed for CTS's participation in the April 13 food drive. Food will be collected on the buses this Saturday as an option for paying the regular fare. All food donated will be given to the Linn-Benton Food Share program.
- H. **Promotional Activities.** Staff reported on a number of recent promotional activities, including:
1. An ad in the centennial edition of the Barometer. The special edition provided an opportunity to remind OSU faculty, staff, and students of the group pass program.
 2. Participation in the *G-T's* "Design an Ad" contest. This program provides an opportunity for a middle school class to learn about the transit system in preparation for their ad designs. The designs were shared with the Commission.
 3. Participation in the School District's "Choices in Corvallis Schools 1996-97" bulletin which was in a recent edition of the *Gazette-Times*. The two "design an ad" contest winners were utilized for a portion of the advertisement.
 4. CTS will plan a celebration for the anticipated ridership record.
 5. Earth Day will be celebrated, as it has in past years, with free transit rides all day, April 24.
 6. Publication of the "Kids Summer Bus Pass" program information in the City Park and Recreation 1996 Spring/Summer bulletin and promotion of this program at the Park and Recreation Department's summer registration event, May 4. Kids ride all summer for \$10.95.

- I. **Pedestrian Issues.** Steve Rogers informed CACOT that the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee has been discussing the need for an advisory commission to address pedestrian issues. Mr. Rogers stated that the ODOT has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. It was noted that transit passengers are pedestrians until they reach the bus and bicycle riders are also pedestrians at some point in their trip. Mr. Rogers asked CACOT to consider this issue at a future meeting and recommend whether or not to have an advisory commission to deal with pedestrian issues; whether or not this role should be assumed by an existing advisory commission; and if yes, which advisory commission.
- J. **Bus Stop Pad.** Chairman Lowry noted that a bus stop pad had been placed near the intersection of 26th and Monroe. Ms. Barrett noted that the poor condition of the bus stop was noted during a monthly meeting with CTS drivers and addressed as a direct result of driver input.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, **May 16, 1996**, at **5:30 p.m.** in the **Central Park Municipal Building**.