

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES
June 13, 1996

Members Present

Bill Hoffman, Vice Chair
Craig Anderson
Tom Meehan
Paul Amato, ASOSU Rep.

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Members Excused

Joanne Adler
Caron Johnson
Robert Lowry
Mary Christian, Council Liaison

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Transfer Policy	X		
Pedestrian Issues			Conditionally support Bicycle Advisory Commission expanding role to include Pedestrians
97-98 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	X		
Ridership Report - May	X		
1996-97 ASOSU/OSU Group Pass Program Update	X		
Request for Proposals - Operations and Maintenance	X		
Trolley Purchase	X		
Opticom Purchase	X		
Transit Master Plan	X		
Ridership Celebration	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 16, 1996

One minor correction to the May 16, 1996 minutes was noted. The minutes were then accepted as corrected.

II. TRANSFER POLICY

The Commission was provided with a copy of a transfer policy which has been in place for many years. The policy states that passengers may use transfers between all CTS routes for immediate transfer to their destination. The intent is to allow passengers to transfer directly from one bus to another at the downtown terminal. If their destination requires that they wait for the same route cycle, i.e. from a Route 1 to a Route 2, 3, or 4 or from a Route 5 to a Route 6, 7, or 8, the passenger is provided with a paper transfer, punched with the date.

To address the issue of on-time performance, an additional provision has been added which recognizes that instances will occur which result in one bus being delayed for a variety of reasons. In those cases, buses will wait up to five (5) minutes from the time the third bus arrives at the downtown terminal for transfers, if there are any. Buses will then depart. Passengers wishing to transfer from the fourth bus will need to wait until the desired bus returns to the downtown terminal.

Additionally, in those instances where a vehicle is involved in an incident which delays the bus for longer than 15 minutes, the contractor will replace the delayed bus with another to assure continuation of the scheduled service. The contractor will use its judgment and available resources to address the needs of the customers on the delayed bus.

On-time performance will also be addressed through the use of technological advances (see discussion in III.E. below) and through a route review and revision (see discussion in III.F. below).

III. PEDESTRIAN ISSUES

Staff had indicated at a previous CACOT meeting that the City's Bicycle Advisory Commission was discussing the need to have pedestrian issues be specifically assigned to a City advisory committee and expressed their willingness to assume that responsibility. It was noted that the State's bicycle advisory committee also has responsibility for pedestrian issues. It was recognized that transit riders are pedestrians while they are getting to and from a bus stop and that bicyclists may also be pedestrians during part of their trip. It was noted that

some pedestrian issues are closely associated with bicycle issues, such as signal timing, sharing of space, etc.

Following discussion, the Commission agreed that pedestrian issues should be addressed by an advisory committee. The Commission supports the addition of those responsibilities to the Bicycle Advisory Commission but requests that CACOT be kept apprised of pedestrian issues and that issues which impact transit and transit riders be coordinated with CACOT. The Commission was particularly interested in accessibility issues.

IV. 97-98 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

Staff provided some background information regarding the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The process to update the City's CIP began recently. A CIP advisory commission has been established to review the program and make recommendations to the City Council. Staff is seeking input from CACOT regarding any projects they would like to see included in the program. It was noted that buses are not "capital projects" for purposes of the CIP. Staff reported that the downtown intermodal mall is included in the program and is scheduled for construction next year. Several street projects were also discussed, such as the improvements to Kings Blvd. and 99W, which will impact transit service. Commission members were asked to provide their input at the next meeting or by calling Steve Rogers.

V. INFORMATION SHARING

- A. Ridership Report - May.** Staff distributed the ridership report showing that 37,120 rides had been provided in May, which was another all-time May monthly record. Staff had completed an analysis of some operating statistics and reported that CTS has increased its operating costs 12 percent this year, which reflects the first full year of costs since service was increased in late September of 1994. Service hours have increased seven (7) percent over last year at this time. Ridership has increased 30 percent this year over last year. Our operating costs per ride are 99 cents, which is the lowest cost per ride of any system in the State.

- B. OSU Group Pass Program.** Staff reported that ASOSU and OSU have agreed to continue the group pass program for 1996-97 at the

same compensation rate. ASOSU contributes \$1.50 per student per quarter, which generates approximately \$60,000 per year. OSU will contribute \$20,000 for faculty and staff to ride.

- C. Request for Proposals - Operations and Maintenance.** Staff noted that the current contract with Laidlaw for operations and maintenance of the fixed route service expires on December 31, 1996. Staff has prepared a request for proposals (RFP) for the next contract. The RFP has been mailed to vendors throughout the country that provide these services. Additional requests have been made by several California and one New York vendor. Proposals are due in August. The schedule calls for an evaluation of the proposals in August and September, followed by possible interviews and a selection by December 1996.
- D. Trolley Purchase.** The City received a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 3 grant late last year, which provides 80 percent funding for a replacement trolley. The trolley has been ordered and should arrive by late September. Because of its poor condition, the current trolley will only be used for limited community events this summer, such as the Benton County Fair Shuttle and daVinci Days. It will then be declared surplus and sold.
- E. Opticom Purchase.** As noted in the discussion of the transfer policy, we have been unable to maintain our on-time service for a variety of reasons. One of the solutions identified to assist in solving this problem is the use of an Opticom device. The device will allow the bus driver to hold a green light green, allowing the transit vehicle to get through the light. The transit device has a low priority and, therefore, will not interfere with an emergency vehicle, which has a high priority. Once the bus goes through the intersection, the light will cycle to its normal phase. The devices will only be used when vehicles are unable to meet the established schedule. These devices are used by Tri-Met in Portland and many transit agencies in Washington State with successful results.
- F. Transit Master Plan.** Staff noted that it is expected that the contract between the State and our consultant, Nelson/Nygaard, for development of the Corvallis Transit Master Plan will be signed this week or next week. Work should begin soon, with public meetings expected this summer.
- G. Ridership Celebration - July 15.** A celebration has been scheduled during the July 15 noon Council meeting to celebrate

the new annual ridership record. Those people and organizations which have been the City's partner in supporting the transit system, including the current CACOT members and previous members, will be invited to attend.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, **July 11, 1996**, at **7:45 a.m.** in the **City Hall Conference Room** (if completed).