

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES
October 10, 1996

Members Present

Bob Lowry, Chairman
Joanne Adler
Jonathan Cardozo
Bill Hoffman
Caron Johnson
Mary Christian, Council Liaison

Staff

Bernadette Barrett, Public Works

Visitors

Dick Bryant

Members Excused

Craig Anderson

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Operations/Maintenance Contract	X		
Downtown Intermodal Mall		X	
Minor Schedule Revisions	X		
Ridership Report - September	X		
Fall Festival - Sept. 28 & 29	X		
Try Transit Week '96	X		
New Trolley - Status	X		
Holiday Trolley - Dec. 4 - 24	X		
Linn-Benton Loop Comm. - Oct. 9	X		
Oregon State University	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Commission members introduced themselves and recognized new Commission member Jonathan Cardozo. Mr. Cardozo works for Rogue Wave at their downtown site and is their web master. He is a regular bus rider.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 12, 1996

The September Commission meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

III. CACOT COMMENTS (Items Not on Agenda)

Commission member Cardozo asked about the status of the Opticom devices. Ms. Barrett indicated that the Public Works communication staff are involved in traffic light upgrades and that they will return to their work on the Opticom devices soon. The devices are not operating in the manner which was expected so Public Works staff are pursuing adjustments to the software to meet our needs. Commission member Cardozo also asked if there were any legal issues regarding the devices. Ms. Barrett indicated that the state has interpreted existing law to allow the devices to hold a green light. During the 1997 legislative session the specific language regarding preemption devices is expected to be revised to allow greater use of the devices for transit.

Commissioner Lowry asked about the status of the pedestrian refuge island on Circle near Richey's. Ms. Barrett indicated that the contract had been signed, a preconstruction conference has been scheduled, and construction should begin in the next week or two.

IV. OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Staff reminded the Commission that the current contract with Laidlaw expires on December 31, 1996. A request for proposals was prepared, distributed to all known transit providers, and advertised in a national publication. Addition RFP's were requested by providers. Only one proposal was submitted by our current provider, Laidlaw. One other company had visited Corvallis and several made phone calls, but none chose to submit a bid. Staff presented a table showing historical rates for the last year and a half, including 6-month adjustments, and the Laidlaw proposal. Staff also presented a table showing a 6-month cost comparison between existing rates and the Laidlaw proposal. Commission members reviewed and discussed the information. Staff will proceed to negotiate with Laidlaw for a contract beginning January 1, 1997.

V. DOWNTOWN INTERMODAL MALL

Dick Bryant, the City's consultant for conceptual designs of the proposed downtown intermodal mall appeared before the Commission to display and discuss various preliminary designs. Each design was discussed, issues identified, and an additional possibility identified. The consultant will return with more refined concepts at the next Commission meeting.

VI. MINOR SCHEDULE REVISIONS

Staff noted that CTS operators have been having a difficult time staying on schedule, particularly because of Routes 2 and 8. These routes were significantly adjusted in September 1994 when the system returned to 1-hour schedules. Because all routes currently connect at the downtown terminal to facilitate transfers, the delay of these routes has affected the entire system. A major redesign of the routes is not anticipated until the summer of 1997, when the Transit Master Plan is scheduled to be adopted. In the short term, staff is proposing revisions to Routes 2 and 8. The Route 2 revision would eliminate the loop which travels Garfield and Grant. Since its implementation in September 1994, the ridership on these streets has remained low. Those impacted by this change would still have access to transit on Kings Boulevard and Highland Avenue. The Route 8 revision would consist of eliminating the portion which travels from Highland east on Circle Boulevard to 9th Street. The proposal would continue the Route 8 on Highland to Garfield and then travel east to 9th Street. Again, those customers who use this portion of Route 8 would continue to have transit access on Highland, 9th Street, and Spruce. Staff will proceed with the changes effective November 1. Customers will be notified by local newspaper, OSU Barometer, notices in the buses and shelters, and by personal contact with the CTS drivers. The route map and schedule will be reprinted as soon as practical to reflect the changes.

VII. INFORMATION SHARING

- A. **Ridership Report.** The September ridership was 28,459. This is the highest September ridership on record. The yearly total is running significantly ahead of previous years.
- B. **Fall Festival - September 28 and 29.** CTS provided free expanded service on Saturday and Sunday during this year's Fall Festival. Ridership was 1,782 this year, compared to 1,582 last year. The greatest increase was on the Sunday service, which was encouraged through an additional ad in the Sunday newspaper.
- C. **Try Transit Week '96 - October 7-12.** Staff noted that this is Try Transit Week. The Mayor, OSU President Risser, and ASOSU President Libby Mitchell signed a proclamation for Try Transit Week on Monday, October 7. This year's focus was on employer participation. Copies of the Mayor's memorandum to area employers was distributed. Staff noted that only Benton County and The Toy Factory took advantage of the opportunity to encourage

their employees to participate this year. This effort will be continued next year.

- D. **New Trolley.** Staff noted that the new trolley had been delivered Saturday, October 5. The manufacturer's representative will be in Corvallis October 15 and 16 to train the operators and maintenance staff. The Mayor has invited Senator Hatfield to come to Corvallis for a trolley dedication, since he was supportive of our federal grant to purchase the trolley and has been a long-time supporter of public transportation.
- E. **Holiday Trolley - December 4 - 24.** Staff has contacted those merchants who have traditionally supported the holiday trolley to determine their commitment for this year's shoppers' shuttle. In addition, staff contacted the new Fred Meyer management regarding their possible participation this year. This year's requested donation has been increased to cover the City's increased costs. Rates have not been adjusted for several years.
- F. **Linn-Benton Loop Commission - October 9.** Commissioner Lowry reported on the Loop Commission meeting. He noted that new officers had been elected. Ms. Barrett was reelected Vice Chair and Bob Lowry retired after serving the maximum two years as Chair. The Loop routes are being redesigned in conjunction with an adjustment to the ATS schedule. The morning routes have been scheduled earlier to attempt to better meet Hewlett-Packard employees' needs. The Loop map is also being redesigned to make it easier to read. Funding looks adequate for this year, although Linn County is no longer contributing.
- G. **Oregon State University.** Staff has expanded its fall promotional campaign at OSU. New activities have included participation at "University Day", information distributed through University Housing, and an on-going program with ASOSU's Environmental Affairs office. Commission Chair Lowry was thanked for helping to distribute information/schedules and answer questions at CTS's University Day table. Staff also noted that OSU will be constructing a large-capacity shelter near the OSU Bookstore as part of the OSU Library expansion. Additional shelters are anticipated at the corner of Kings Boulevard and Monroe Avenue. CTS will provide the shelters and OSU will provide an easement.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

November 14, 1996; 7:50 a.m.; City Hall Conference Room D
December 12, 1996; 7:50 a.m.; City Manager's Conference Room, Room A
January 9, 1997; 7:50 a.m.; City Hall Conference, Room D