CORVALLIS CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

AGENDA

Thursday; August 8, 1996
Chintimini Senior Center - Conference Room
2601 N. W. Tyler
7:45 a.m.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 11, 1996

III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS (Items not on Agenda)

IV. TRANSIT MASTER PLAN - Update

V. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report - July

B. Transit Rules of Conduct

C. daVinci Days - July 20 and 21

D. Benton County Fair - July 30-August 3

E. Fall Festival - September 28 and 29

F. Try Transit Week ‘96 - October 7-12

VI. ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES

September 12, 1996; 7:45 a.m.; City Hall Conference Room
October 10, 1996; 7:45 a.m.; City Hall Conference Room
November 14, 1996; 7:45 a.m.; City Hall Conference Room

CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT

MINUTES
July 11, 1996

Members Present
Bob Lowry, Chair
Joanne Adler
Craig Anderson
Bill Hoffman
Tom Meehan
Mary Christian, Council Liaison

Staff
Bernadette Barrett, Public Works
Steve Rogers, Public Works

Members Excused
Caron Johnson

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Informa-tion Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
1997-98 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)			Recommended consideration of park and ride lots
Ridership Report	X		
Ridership Celebration	X		
daVinci Days - July 20 and 21	X		
Benton Co. Fair - July 30-Aug 3	X		
Rules/Regulations - Passenger Conduct	X		
Loop Comm. Meeting - July 10	X		
1997 Oregon Legislative Agenda	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 13, 1996

The minutes were accepted with minor corrections.

II. VISITOR COMMENTS

Mary McCoy appeared before the Commission to provide a copy of two Oregon legislative proposals. One would amend the Oregon Constitution to allow use of local gas tax revenues for transit if approved by the voters of a city. The other would authorize the establishment of a loop or shuttle system between two or more jurisdictions. She also requested that transit be available on the 4th of July. She requested information regarding the number of people using the transit system. Steve

Rogers recalled tha the 1990 census indicated that one (1) percent of the population were commuting by bus.

III. 97-98 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)

Steve Rogers provided background regarding the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He noted that the CIP does not include vehicle purchases, such as buses. It also does not include items costing less than $10,000 and/or have a short life. Park and ride lots would be included. The Commission discussed the concept of park and ride lots and their potential in the Corvallis area. The Commission agreed that the concept of park and ride lots should be explored.

V. INFORMATION SHARING

A. Ridership Report. The June and year-end ridership report was provided, showing the annual ridership to be 394,145. This is a 28+ percent increase over 1994-95 and a 15+ percent increase over the previous annual record of 341,598.

B. Ridership Celebration. The Commission was reminded of the City Council's celebration of this milestone at their July 15 noon meeting. It was noted that representatives from OSU and the Oregon Department of Transportation would be present.

C. daVinci Days - July 20 and 21. As in past years, CTS will provide free rides during daVinci days, July 20 and 21, running the regular routes. The hours of operation both Saturday and Sunday will be 9:45 a.m. to 7:15 p.m.

D. Benton County Fair - July 30-August 3. The City and Benton County will again provide free trolley shuttle service between Parker Stadium (west side), Downtown Corvallis, and the Benton County Fairgrounds each day of the fair. The shuttle runs from 12 noon until fair closure. An express bus is added in the evening that operates from Parker Stadium to the Fairgrounds. For the past two years, TCI cable has contributed to the cost of this service. They have indicated that they will not participate this year. Therefore, the costs will be shared equally between the City and Benton County, unless a new sponsor is identified.

E. Rules/Regulations - Passenger Conduct. The Commission was informed that the proposed transit rules and regulations have been reviewed by the City Attorney's office and Police staff. Some provisions were determined to already

be covered by City or state statutes. Those provisions which are not covered and are appropriate for an ordinance have been drafted as a new transit section in the City's offenses ordinance. Those regulations which did not appear to be appropriate for criminal action will be included in administrative rules adopted for the system. The draft ordinance is expected to go to the Urban Services Committee of the Council at their July 22 meeting and, if approved, forwarded to the Council at their first August meeting.

F. **Loop Commission Meeting - July 10**. Bob Lowry reported on the July 10 Loop Commission meeting. He noted that ridership had increased approximately 15 percent. The increase is primarily due to student enrollment at LBCC. LBCC ridership makes up approximately 80 percent of the Loop ridership. He also noted that there was some discussion of the funding of the system. The system's finances, as well as operations, are managed through the City of Albany and, therefore, subject to Albany's budget guidelines regarding contingencies, etc. The City of Albany finances its transit system, including their contribution to the Loop, from the City's general fund. It was noted that OSU dropped its support of the Loop several years ago and Linn County is no longer contributing to the Loop.

G. **1997 Oregon Legislative Agenda**. Steve Rogers distributed a copy of a letter from Mayor Helen Berg and City Manager Nelson which was sent to State Representative Barbara Ross and State Senator Cliff Trow. He noted that the City has attempted during the last two legislative sessions to get a change in statutory language which would allow the City of Corvallis to access the "in lieu of taxes" payments. Those payments are currently paid by State agencies to transit districts or transportation districts for transit services. Representative Ross introduced the legislation during the 1995 session and worked for its adoption. The legislation was not considered by the full House because of opposition from Oregon State University. It is our understanding that OSU opposed the legislation because there was no guarantee that OSU would see an increase in their budget allocation to fund the "in lieu of" payments. In response to a question, it was noted that when the "in lieu of taxes" was first enacted, State institutions were provided with additional revenues.

The letter indicates that the City will not be pursuing the "in lieu of taxes" during the 1997 session for several reasons. Those reasons include the limitation of staff

resources to support this effort in light of several major transit projects in the next year; the past history of opposition from Oregon State University; and that other potential increased revenues would be more likely, such as an increase in the transit levy, the designation of the Corvallis/Philomath area as an urbanized area during the 2000 census which may result in increased revenues, and the fact that ODOT has a new director who may place a higher priorty on support for alternative modes.

H. Other. Steve Rogers noted that the bike racks on buses were approved in the 1996-97 budget. The time line for the "bikes on buses" program has not been developed. The Opticom devices have been purchased and the Communications staff is working on installing the devices. Copies of the July 1996 *Public Transit Update*, an ODOT Public Transit Section newsletter, were distributed. This month's edition contained an article regarding Corvallis' ridership record.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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