

**CORVALLIS CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
AGENDA**

Monday; July 19, 2004; 5:30 p.m.

**Main Meeting Room, Corvallis/Benton County Public Library
645 N.W. Monroe Avenue**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 9, 2004

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

- IV. RECEIVE FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CORVALLIS TRANSIT SYSTEM PASSENGER FARES; COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION - No written comments were received

- V. INFORMATION SHARING - Written report will be distributed during the meeting

- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

The Corvallis/Benton County Public Library is accessible to the public. Please contact Michelle Rhoads at (541) 766-6916 if you will need any special accommodations to attend the meeting.

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES**

June 9, 2004

Members Present

Craig Anderson, Chair
Bob Lowry, Vice-Chair
Scott Carroll
Chris Godwin, ASOSU ex-officio
Lita Verts
Stewart Wershow, City Council
Robert E. Wilson

Staff

Steve Rogers, Public Works
Jon Katin, Public Works
Michelle Rhoads, Public Works

Visitors

Bernadette Barrett
Paul Morgan
Brandon Trelstad

Members Absent

Bjorn Warloe, Unexcused

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Introductions	x		
Approval of Minutes - May 12, 2004			Approved with one modification
CACOT/Visitors Comments			Yes, regarding CTS routes
Commission Member Recognition			Anderson received recognition for nine years of service
Election of Chair and Vice-Chair			Lowry elected Chair; Verts elected Vice-Chair
ASOSU Night Life Proposal		X	
SAMTD Jobs Access Reverse Commute Proposal		X	
Review of Revenue Percentage from Rides/Services Received and Passenger Fares			Proposal to increase CTS Adult cash fare to \$.75 with similar increases in other fares and media
Request for Bus Stop at 27 th & Tyler		X	
Request for Additional Paratransit Services		X	
Information Sharing	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. INTRODUCTIONS

CACOT members, staff, and visitors introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 12, 2004

Lowry made a motion to accept the May 12, 2004 minutes with the following modification: On page 3, Section IV. second bulleted

section, 2., second sentence, include "OSU student group pass program" as one of the primary funding sources for Transit. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/VISITORS COMMENTS

None.

IV. COMMISSION MEMBER RECOGNITION

Anderson received recognition and expressions of appreciation for the nine years he has served as a member of CACOT. He has served the maximum nine years available within City advisory commission rules.

V. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Wilson nominated Lowry as Chair and Verts as Vice-Chair. Lowry accepted his nomination on the condition that his position not be required to head up a levy vote. Verts accepted her nomination. **A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.**

VI. ASOSU NIGHT LIFE SHUTTLE PROPOSAL

Postponed until the proposal is received from ASOSU.

VII. SAMTD "JOBS ACCESS REVERSE COMMUTE" PROPOSAL

Postponed until the proposal is received from SAMTD.

VIII. REVIEW OF REVENUE PERCENTAGE FROM RIDES/SERVICES RECEIVED AND PASSENGER FARES

Rogers reviewed the data that was provided for CACOT discussion. The information provided scenarios of how to achieve CACOT's recommendation that transit achieve 15% of its operating revenue from passenger fares along with potential impact on ridership. The scenarios were projected using historical CTS information on passenger fare increases and impact on ridership.

Godwin asked if the bus advertising revenue was being considered in the City's planning for Transit funding. Rogers replied that it is not for two reasons: a) there is no history with which to provide reliable data; and b) if ad revenue were included, the percentage of fare revenue would be further reduced by comparison. Katin added that the ad revenue collections to date are low.

Verts expressed concern about the projected reduction in ridership with a \$.10 increase in the CTS Adult passenger fare. Rogers suggested that \$.75 for the Adult fare seems to be the right fare to achieve CACOT's recommended 15% revenue share from passenger fares.

Lowry provided the following comments:

- Another transit agency or ODOT may have software that the City could use in performing scientific elasticity models.
- Typically the people who pay the cash, full fare per ride are usually in lower economic brackets and thus would experience greater impact with the increase.
- The proposed costs for Adult 12 month passes (30% of full fare) and Senior/Youth/Disabled 12 month passes (20% of full fare) are too low.

CACOT members want more information about how proposed fare increases would likely impact ridership and the percentages of revenues. Wershow asked for information on Senior/Youth/Disabled (SYD) ridership and revenues that can be specifically derived from it, such as SYD monthly bus passes and ride coupon booklets.

Lowry suggested that there be a comparison of service levels received for the passenger fare. He also suggested there should be consideration of the convenience to passengers regarding the number of coins required to pay the cash fare, using the example of three quarters (\$.75) being more convenient than the four coins required to pay a \$.70 cash fare.

Lowry made a motion that there be a public announcement of a proposal to increase the CTS Adult cash fare to \$.75, with similar price increases in other cash fares and fare media, and that Senior/Youth/Disabled fares be specifically mentioned in the announcement. Wilson seconded the motion.

Discussion included possible time lines for deliberations and that CACOT should issue its recommendation to the City Council no later than its August meeting. The effective date of any approved fare increases would then be dependent upon the Council's decision-making process. Staff was asked to communicate the fare increase proposal to the Senior Center and the group, "Access Benton County".

Verts cautioned that many people who purchase monthly bus passes are also dependent upon the public transit system. Any increases to passenger fares may cause unintended consequences to these individuals and the community as a whole.

A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

IX. REQUEST FOR ROUTE CHANGE TO PROVIDE BUS STOP AT 27TH & TYLER

There have recently been requests for a CTS bus stop at 27th & Tyler to provide direct access to the Senior Center and the Benton County Public Services building. Staff will research the viability of such a change. If implemented, the stop would most likely be added to the Route 7 which operates in the area and has flexibility in its time schedule. Lowry noted that in the past there was a bus stop at that location but there was very little ridership going to the Senior Center. Wershow suggested that staff also discuss the request with Councilor Gandara to explore the viability of removing parking to accommodate a stop at the curb.

X. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PARATRANSIT SERVICES FOR PEAK WHEELCHAIR RIDER USAGE

Rhoads reported that members of the group, "Access Benton County" (ABC), have requested that the City arrange for additional capacity to provide more rides to CTS riders in wheelchairs during peak times. ABC members are reporting that there are times when the routes 3 and 8 buses are at capacity for wheelchair users, especially in the SW Corvallis area. CACOT directed staff to ask that a representative of ABC attend a regular CACOT and/or Benton County Special Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting to provide opportunity for direct dialogue on this topic. CACOT also suggested that ABC contact the city councilor for that area and/or attend a City Council meeting to discuss the request during the period reserved for visitor propositions. It was noted that "Visitor Propositions" are usually accepted at the 7:00 p.m. Council meetings when CTS bus services are no longer operating. A suggestion was made that the Council consider holding Visitor Propositions at the 12:00 noon meeting once per month to accommodate this opportunity.

XI. INFORMATION SHARING

A written report was included with the meeting agenda. Rhoads reported that the on-time performance of CTS during May 2004 was 93% and that ridership on both CTS and Philomath Connection continues to increase over time.

There were comments and questions about some CTS route performance:

* Anderson expressed concern about the on-time performance of the Route 5 trip that is paired with the Route 2. The value of the 30-minute frequency on that Route 5 trip is being compromised by the continued lateness of the Route 2.

* Lowry suggested that the 9th St. and Circle Blvd. intersection continues to be problematic for CTS route buses.

* Morgan asked if there would be a designated bus stop at 615 NW Polk as was requested earlier in the year. Rhoads replied that there was intention to have one there, and she would follow up on the question. Morgan also encouraged the City to promote sales and use of ride coupons to help speed up the passenger boarding process. His concern was about the additional time required for people to locate the correct change to pay the cash fare.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Lowry and the motion passed unanimously.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, July 19, 2004 5:30 p.m., Main Meeting Room Public Library
Wednesday, August 11, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D
Wednesday, September 8, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

Memorandum

DATE: July 20, 2004
TO: STAC Members
FROM: Michelle Rhoads, CTS Transit Manager
SUBJECT: Information Sharing Written Report

- **Transportation Funding Alternatives Task Force (TFATF)** - The TFATF report will be presented to the City Council's Urban Services Committee on July 20, 2004. The TFATF report recommends that CTS services should NOT be cut in FY 05-06.
- **daVinci Days Transportation** - CTS provided free and expanded service this past weekend for this community event. Ridership for the 2004 event (1,703) was down from 2003 (1,908) but higher than 2002 (1,509).
- **On-Time Performance** - CTS on-time performance was 98% during June, compared with 93% in May, 95% in April and previous months of 92-93%. It seems clear that CTS on-time performance can be correlated with OSU and/or 509J School District ridership because during the Spring Break week in March it also increased to 98%.
- **Request for Proposals for Purchase of an Auto-Announce Passenger Information, Auto-Passenger Count System, and related technologies** - Two proposals were received. Staff evaluated the proposals and is in process of negotiating a best and final offer from the selected vendor.
- **Ridership** - CTS ridership for FY 03-04 was 511,830 - the second highest on record. Philomath Connection ridership for FY 03-04 was 12,683 - the third highest on record. Linn-Benton Loop ridership was not available at this point in time.
- **Special Events** -
 - *Benton County Fair and Shuttle* - Staff worked with Benton County Fair management to develop a service plan and budget that balances a reduction in cost with appropriate transportation coverage for the event. More information will be forthcoming shortly, and will be posted on the CTS and County Fair websites.

- “*T(ea) for Transit*” - STF and CTS co-hosted five events at local senior/assisted living facilities during June and July. One more is scheduled in August. Feedback to date has been very positive and there are success stories such as two residents of Corvallis Caring Place riding CTS on the Saturday following their training event, and residents of other facilities coming back to share their excitement and learnings with other residents of their facility. Some of the facility activities directors are planning senior outings on the bus within the next month.