

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

**Wednesday; September 8, 2004; 8:00 a.m.  
City Hall Conference Room D  
501 S.W. Madison Avenue**

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 19, 2004
- III. CACOT/VISITOR'S COMMENTS (Items not on Agenda)
- IV. SYD BUS PASS PRICES - Follow up on proposal to increase CTS passenger fares
- V. TRANSIT FUND BUSINESS PLAN - Enclosed in packet for review
- VI. REQUEST FOR ROUTE SERVICE ON TYLER - Follow up discussion
- VII. CTS BUS ROUTE ON-TIME PERFORMANCE - Follow up discussion
- VIII. INFORMATION SHARING - Written report will be distributed during CACOT meeting
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

**Future Meetings:**

Wednesday, October 13, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D  
Wednesday, November 10, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D  
Wednesday, December 8, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

**The Corvallis City Hall 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**

July 19, 2004

Members Present

Craig Anderson  
Scott Carroll  
Brandon Trelstad  
Lita Verts, Vice-Chair  
Bjorn Warloe

Staff

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

Members Absent

Chris Godwin, ASOSU ex-officio  
Bob Lowry, Chair  
Stewart Wershow, City Council  
Robert E. Wilson

Visitors

Mark Peterson, Benton County  
Larry Weymouth, CH2M Hill

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations/Action
Introductions	X		
Approval of Minutes - June 9, 2004			Approved
CACOT/Visitors Comments	X		
Proposal to increase CTS passenger fares			Recommendation to increase fares as proposed by staff
Information Sharing	X		

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

CACOT members, staff, and visitors introduced themselves.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 9, 2004**

Carroll made a motion to accept the June 9, 2004 minutes as written. Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

**III. CACOT/VISITORS COMMENTS**

Weymouth explained that CH2M Hill is partnering with the Nelson/Nygaard consulting firm to conduct work on the update to the Corvallis Transit Master Plan. He offered the opportunity to provide input into the updates and in particular is interested in opportunities to market transit.

**IV. RECEIVE FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSAL TO INCREASE CORVALLIS TRANSIT SYSTEM (CTS) PASSENGER FARES; COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

Rogers presented information about the elasticity of CTS passenger fares related to the type of services provided by CTS and its ridership. CTS is not subject to regular elasticity models because 49% of CTS ridership is affiliated with the OSU group program and it is possible that the proposed fare increases will result in a larger decrease in CTS ridership than anticipated in the elasticity information presented during the June 2004 CACOT meeting. It also appears that the 15% user fee revenue share goal will be easier to achieve than originally anticipated a month ago. Rogers presented a recommendation for increasing CTS passenger fares as described below:

**Proposal to Increase CTS Passenger Fares  
 Staff Recommendation  
 July 19, 2004**

<u>Fare Type</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>% of Full Fare</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>% of Full Fare</u>
Full Adult Fare	\$0.60	100%	\$0.75	100%
Senior/Youth/Disabled (S/Y/D) Fare	\$0.30	50%	\$0.40 *	53%
Adult 20 Ride Book vs. Full Adult Fare	\$8.00	67%	\$11.25	75%
S/Y/D 20 Ride Book vs. Full Adult Fare	\$5.00	42%	\$6.50	43%
Adult Pass (assumes 10 rides/week)				
Examples:				
1 month	\$12.00	50%	\$18.00	60%
6 months	\$51.00	35%	\$72.00	40%
12 months	\$78.00	27%	\$108.00	30%
S/Y/D Pass (assumes 10 rides/week)				
Examples:				
1 month	\$8.00	33%	\$12.00	40%
6 months	\$36.00	25%	\$54.00	30%
12 months	\$56.00	19%	\$72.00	20%
5 years of age and under (FREE)	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	0%
Transfers (FREE)	\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	0%
PROPOSAL: 80 + Years of Age (FREE)	\$0.30	50%	\$0.00	0%
OSU Group Pass Program		75%		75%

\* Note: The proposed S/Y/D cash fare was revised from \$0.40 to \$0.35 after this meeting.

Rogers also presented comparison information about discounts offered to purchasers of passes and 20-ride coupon booklets. He suggested that it would be appropriate at a future date to reconsider the discounts offered for these other passenger fare media because it appears that CTS offers disproportionately larger discounts than other transit systems. This comparison information is described below:

Example of a 6 month pass - CTS \$51; Albany \$84; Basin (Klamath Falls) \$192

20-ride coupon booklets, percentage of price compared with the regular adult cash fare for 20 rides - CTS 67%; Albany 92%; Basin 90%; Woodburn 83%; Rogue Valley (Medford) 95%; Salem 91%; Tri-Met 97%

Rogers also provided information that was requested during the June 2004 CACOT meeting regarding the quantity of bus passes and 20-ride coupon booklets sold in the past year by adult or SYD:

<u>Fare Media</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>SYD</u>	<u>Total</u>
20 ride coupon booklets	1,720	995	2,715
Bus passes	335	975	1,310
Total	2,055	1,970	4,025

Verts asked what impact the new OSU revenue would have on total Transit Program revenue for FY 04-05. Rogers replied that OSU will contribute \$20,000 for the pre-paid ride program for faculty and staff as in past years, and a contribution of \$130,000 in operating funds to help preserve existing transit service levels. This is in addition to the pre-paid ride program for students that is funded through student incidental fees.

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) revenue will also help preserve existing service levels. Rogers noted that the Transit Program is the only City program receiving General Fund support that has not been impacted with budget cuts. Trelstad asked if the new bus advertising revenue was considered in the overall revenue structure for Transit; Rogers replied yes.

Rhoads reported that no written comments about the recommended passenger fare increase were received by the advertised deadline of July 12, 2004. After the deadline but before this meeting, she was contacted by two people via e-mail and one person via a phone call. Those comments were shared with CACOT members and are described below. All comments were in opposition to increasing the cost of CTS passenger fares.

- One person asked if a local gasoline tax could be enacted to help fund transit services to avoid increasing passenger fares. Rogers noted that gasoline taxes can only be used for highways and streets. Any change to this would have to be through an amendment to the Oregon State constitution.

- Another person recommended that the City of Corvallis institute an incentive program for its employees to use alternative modes of transportation, including transit. Rhoads has already passed this request on to appropriate City staff.
- A third person asked about the increased financial contribution from OSU. When Rhoads explained to her that the increase was being used to preserve existing service levels and that the proposal to increase passenger fares was initiated from a City Council directive to review user fees for City services, the person was understanding though still against the fare increase.

Verts asked if the two CACOT visitors wanted to provide further comments during the meeting, and both declined.

Warloe stated that he received a comment from someone who favored the fare increase - until the person learned that the increase would not result in service improvements. Then the person voiced their opposition to the fare increase. Warloe noted that the increase to \$0.75 for the one-way adult cash fare would result in a round trip cost of \$1.50 for someone commuting to and from work on a daily basis.

Trelstad asked how the proposed CTS cash fare of \$0.75 compared with other transit systems. Rhoads reviewed the comparison information provided to CACOT during its April 2004 meeting, which showed a low to high range of \$0.60 for CTS and Albany to \$1.60 for Tri-Met, with varying service levels.

Anderson made a motion to approve the increase in CTS passenger fares as outlined in the staff recommendation. Carroll seconded the motion. Warloe asked if this included the proposal for free rides for people ages 80 years or older, and it does. A vote was called and the motion passed unanimously. Rhoads noted that as a result of CACOT action during this meeting, the fare increase proposal process will be a little ahead of the original time schedule planned for review by City Council and its Administrative Services Committee.

## **XI. INFORMATION SHARING**

A written report was distributed during the meeting and is included as an attachment to the minutes.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Warloe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Carroll. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **Future Meetings:**

**CANCELED - Wednesday, August 11, 2004 8:00 a.m.**

Wednesday, September 8, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

Wednesday, October 13, 2004 8:00 a.m., City Hall Conference Rm. D

## Memorandum

DATE: September 7, 2004  
TO: CACOT Members  
FROM: Michelle Rhoads, Transit Manager  
SUBJECT: Information Sharing Written Report

- **Inbound CTS Routes 3 and 8, and Philomath Connection to Change Effective Monday, Sept. 27** - OSU is converting Jefferson to one-way (westbound) travel between Benton Place and 26<sup>th</sup> St. to address pedestrian and vehicle issues. Beginning Sept. 27 the inbound routes will turn right at Washington from 26<sup>th</sup> St., turn left at Benton Place, and turn right at Jefferson Ave. to resume their regular path of travel. Outbound routes are not affected.
- **Revised CTS Bus Schedules Effective Sept. 27** - Revised schedules will be distributed during the week of Sept. 20. Revisions are minor and include: A) the aforementioned changes to routes 3 and 8; B) the April 2004 revision to Route 1; C) approved price changes for passenger fares and fare media; and D) a brief statement about route service during "Severe Weather".
- **Philomath Connection (PC) Schedule** - It is anticipated that the PC schedules will be revised within the next two weeks, also to be available for distribution before the beginning of OSU's Fall Term on Sept. 27.
- **Designated Bus Stops and Additional Bus Shelters**- The installation of signs is about 90% complete. A rider and public awareness campaign will be conducted during September, which will be the period of transition. Usage of the stops will be optional through Saturday, Sept. 25 with mandatory usage effective Monday, Sept. 27. It is anticipated that nine bus shelters will be installed this Fall and five more will be installed in Spring 2005.
- **Benton County Fair Trolley and Shuttle Service** - CTS provided 3,000 rides to fairgoers during the 2004 Fair August 3-7. Ridership for the past 5 years has averaged 3,077. During the first three days (Tues. - Thurs.) ridership was significantly above average, but the rainy weather during the last two days (Fri.- Sat.) likely dampened the interest of fairgoers!

- **Ridership** - Ridership reports will be distributed during the CACOT meeting. Highlights are: A) CTS ridership in August was 37,569 which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest August ridership on record. The combined July-August ridership is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest July-August ridership on record. These figures include Fair ridership figures. B) Philomath ridership in August was 1,024 which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest August ridership on record. The combined July-August ridership is also the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest July-August ridership on record. C) The August Dial-A-Bus ridership report will be available at the meeting and highlights will be reported then.
- **On-Time Performance** - CTS on-time performance was 92% in both July and August. The following routes were on time only ~ 74-87% of the dates checked: the 3, the 6, and the 5 that is paired with the 2. Route 2 performed at 96% and 93% respectively only because that Route 5 trip gets it back on time. Staff requests future dialogue on this issue to help mitigate the recurring lateness of these routes and their ongoing impact on customer service and operational performance.
- **Auto-Announce Passenger Information and Auto-Passenger Count System** - The order has been placed and it is anticipated that the system will be implemented in Spring 2005.
- **Bus Replacement** - An order has been placed for a replacement 35 foot, ADA-accessible Gillig bus. One surplus bus will be sold soon, and a second will be sold after the new bus arrives in June 2005.
- **Transit Master Plan** - Updates to the existing draft plan are in process. Work is being completed by the City of Corvallis and a consultant hired by the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO).
- **Informational Brochures About CTS** - Recently two brochures were developed to A) describe the accessibility features of the regular CTS transit buses; and B) describe the CTS paratransit service. Copies will be distributed during the meeting.
- **T(ea) for Transit** - A total of six events were held in July and August. Feedback has been very positive. Activity directors from the residential facilities have been taking groups of residents on trips to reinforce the training and to add to the comfort level of people who attended the events.
- **Upcoming Events** - There are a number of upcoming events related to the beginning of OSU's Fall Term including "University Day" with faculty and staff on September 21 and the "Where It's At" Community Fair with students on October 1. Try Transit Week will be held October 4 - 9.