

Approved

by CACOT
September 10, 2013

**CORVALLIS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION ON TRANSIT
MINUTES
July 10, 2013**

Present

Stephan Friedt, Chair
Eric Cornelius
Steve Harder
John Oliver
Bruce Sorte, Council Liaison

Staff

Tim Bates, Public Works
Brie Caffey, Public Works
Lisa Scherf, Public Works

Absent

Kriste York

Visitors

Steven Black
Robert E. Wilson

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Agenda Item	Information Only	Held for Further Review	Recommendations
I. Introductions	X		
II. Approval of June 12, 2013 Minutes			Approved
III. CACOT/Visitor Comments			N/A
IV. Old Business			N/A
V. New Business			Commissioner Harder was elected Vice Chair
VI. Information Sharing	X		
VII. Commission Requests and Reports			N/A
VIII. Pending Items			N/A
IX. Adjournment			Adjourned at 9:02 am

CONTENT OF DISCUSSION

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:22 am by Chair Friedt. Introductions were made of Commission members and staff.

II. Approval of Minutes

Commissioners Cornelius and Harder, respectively, moved and seconded to approve the June 12, 2013 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CACOT/Visitor Comments

None.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

Selection of Vice Chair - Chair Friedt nominated Commissioner Harder for the position of Vice Chair; Commissioner Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Information Sharing

Mr. Bates reviewed the written Information Sharing Report. Comments provided in addition to the report included:

Two 35-foot Gillig buses, the same models as the rest of the CTS fleet, have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive in February, 2014. Another bus is due to be replaced in 2015 and CTS made the preliminary cut for grant funding through ODOT. If CTS ultimately receives the grant, that will be one less bus to purchase from Section 5307 funds (used to provide operations, preventative maintenance, and ADA service). Mr. Bates said CTS has applied for 2015 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds to purchase yet another bus. Chair Friedt, who sits on the Area Commission on Transportation, said he would try to find out when the group will decide on distribution of available STIP funds.

Chair Friedt asked about the timeline for VIS installation. Mr. Bates said he would email the projected time line to Commissioners. The current project plan is to have the real-time bus information operational before Aug 31, 2013.

Ms. Scherf reported that she attended an Oregon Transit Association board meeting where nearly all attendees reported lower or flat ridership compared to last year. She reported that an attendee speculated that the lower numbers correlate to lower gas prices.

Mr. Bates reported that the Beaver Bus ridership was slightly lower in FY 2012-13. He is hopeful that the upcoming marketing partnership between CTS and OSU will improve ridership.

Mr. Bates reported that the school district approved its budget for Route CVA, so there will be no change in service hours service for FY 2013-14.

Chair Friedt mentioned that the on board survey, conducted for CTS by CAMPO, highlighted the safety issues that the Commission has tried to address. Overall, he feels the survey shows that CTS and the Commission are on the right track. Councilor Sorte noted that comments were favorable to CTS drivers. Commissioner Oliver said many of the complaints listed were about buses running 15 minutes late. Councilor Sorte mentioned that the City's Citizens Attitude Survey was cross referenced with age and revealed an opportunity for increasing the ridership by seniors. The CAMPO survey also seems to indicate this.

Chair Friedt said that there is wording in the City policy which refers to 'transit shelters' as a location that drivers can legally ask people to remove themselves from. Chair Friedt asked staff to see if 'transit center' or 'transit facilities' should be added. Mr. Bates said he will seek counsel from the City Attorney's Office.

VII. Commission Requests and Reports

Chair Friedt requested ridership numbers for the Linn-Benton Loop and any other bus that connects to CTS via the Downtown Transit Center be added to the Information Sharing Report so that the Commission can see if fluctuations in Loop ridership correspond to CTS ridership. Staff agreed to do this.

VIII. Pending Items

CTS future system levels - Chair Friedt said seasonal routes are being used more and more by community members not tied to OSU. He opined while providing transportation to OSU students, faculty and staff is part of CTS' main mission, it should not be the main focus in decision making. He'd like to know what it would take to make future CTS enhancements that keep the Beaver Bus and other seasonal routes running during the summer for non-school-related passengers who become reliant on them.

Mr. Bates said he received a call from a representative of ASOSU perhaps two years ago who said they might be willing to fund their share of the Beaver Bus through the summer. Mr. Bates said he could call them and pursue that angle but he was unsure if Council would be open to it. ASOSU pays only 70% of the costs so the City would have to help pay for 30% of the costs. Counselor Sorte said that he would not support the City funding such an enhancement because it is an example of the kinds of things the community has indicated that they would like to see OSU fund. He said OSU has a large number of summer students which would use Beaver Bus service in the summer so it would not be wrong for OSU to pay those expenses. He also noted that OSU parking fees on the north end of campus will increase in January, which may cause more students to park out in the neighborhood and/or ride CTS.

Mr. Bates said he would calculate the cost of operating the Beaver Bus during the summer and provide it at the next meeting. Ms. Scherf noted that CTS has not budgeted for a service enhancement in FY 2013-14. Chair Friedt asked about CTS funding and if the increase in the TOF could help fund these enhancements. Ms. Scherf said the Transit Fund is currently healthy but there has to be a balance between putting money into service and saving some funds for local match on capital items such as bus procurement, the VIS system, etc.

Chair Friedt said if CTS ever offers a Sunday service, then a Beaver Bus route system would be ideal because it services enough of the places people want to go yet uses only two buses.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioners Harder and Cornelius, respectively, moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05am.

**NEXT MEETING: September 10, 2013, 8:20 am, Madison Ave Meeting Room
(August Meeting Is Cancelled)**