City bus shuttle shut down

The Lincoln Center Shuttle was eliminated by the City Council Monday only six months after the bus began running from the Federal Building at 16 and O Streets to the city's main post office at 700 R St.

The council acted on a recommendation from the Lincoln Transportation System Board. The board cited the fact that an average of 10.5 customers per day rode the bus—less than a total of 1,000—from May 22 to September 30.

In its report to the council, LTS said the bus only paid one percent of its operating cost from fare box revenues.

The bus brought in 2.2 cents per mile, considerably less than the LTS average of 37.9 cents per mile.

Between the Federal Building and the post office, the bus followed O Street.

LTS official Kent Morgan said the route was an idea of the City Council. Morgan said when buses began to follow N Street and Q Street instead of O Street, council members received some citizen requests for O Street service.

Because of this, the council passed a resolution directing LTS to develop O Street service. The result was the Lincoln Center Shuttle.

Morgan said the shuttle represents part of an overall problem in determining what kind of service is needed in the downtown area.

Some city officials think the downtown mini-line service should make money, Morgan said. But profit is not a reasonable objective, he said, because LTS does not show profit on any of its routes.

Morgan said he thinks the mini-line service, besides providing convenience, should serve as a public relations' device for the whole system.

Morgan explained that the convenience factor creates a good image for the system, and could get people into the habit of riding buses. If a person rides a bus while in the downtown area, and the bus proves more convenient than walking or driving, he said, that person may get into the habit of taking a bus to and from work.

Deadline extension sought

The Committee for Fees Allocation heard a request from Ron Dahlke and Nancy Eicher of the Union Program Council to extend the Jan. 15th deadline for submitting next year's budget to Feb. 15th.

They said the new program council members begin meeting in January and need time to familiarize themselves with UPC and at least a week to draw up the budget proposal.

Eicher said it would stifle the new program council if next year's budget was drawn up by this year's council.

CFA approved the request and extended UPC's deadline to Feb. 7th.

The committee also received a request for an extention from the University Health Center. The letter said the Health Center is still looking for a replacement for its business manager who resigned this fall. That extention will be voted on at the next CFA meeting.

Robert Moline was appointed as secretary for the remainder of the year.

The committee approved the new CFA by-laws, which with few exceptions are the same as last year's Fees Allocation Board bylaws.

The bylaws go to ASUN for final approval.

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