

Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2016, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Portland City Hall, Pettygrove Room

Members in Attendance: Owen Ronchelli, Chair; Lenny Anderson; David Brandt; Bill Danneman; Reza Farhoodi; Peter Finley Fry; Jon Joiner; Susan Pearce; Cora Potter; Zoe Presson; Vern Rifer

Staff Attendance: Dan Bower,

Others in Attendance: Adam Kriss

1. Meeting Called to Order:

Ronchelli called the meeting to Order. The minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting were not approved due to lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Adam Kriss commented that there continue to be issues with some streetcars not having the blue buttons and strips not being connected to the stop call feature of a vehicle causing confusion and inconsistency as well as continued issues with some ramps not deploying. He asked staff to continue to look into that.

3. CAC Bylaws

Ronchelli summarized the work done on the proposed bylaws for the CAC. Edits from the previous meeting were incorporated into the final draft in front of the committee for approval. Anderson moved to approve the bylaws as written. Potter seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Station Consolidation Feedback and Trial Closure

Bower summarized the results of the trial to date as well as the feedback received. Bower stated that each of the five stations had its own particular issues and desired outcomes and for the most part those outcomes are occurring. The closure of SW 1st & Harrison is resulting in the operational improvements desired. The public feedback for this location has primarily called out the unique layout of this area and the challenge for riders to travel either up/down the hill to 3rd & Harrison or to the stop east of Naito on Harrison. Farhoodi commented on how low the ridership was at that stop. Bower added that it was the second least used stop on the west side.

The station at SW 10th & Stark is going very well. Significant time savings are being realized as streetcars are able to leave Alder and make it all the way to Burnside without stopping and, about 50% of the time, make it all the way to Couch. SW 10th & Everett is functioning as anticipated as well with streetcars leaving Couch and making it all the way to Glisan without stopping. SW 11th & Everett is not yet functioning as desired as streetcars are almost always stopped at Everett and would need approximately 5 additional seconds in the cycle timing to make the green and travel all the way to Couch. Bower will know after an upcoming meeting with PBOT as to whether or not the issue can be resolved in the coming months with the help of PBOT and additional infrastructure.

Bower reported that there have been approximately 140 comments received with 67% negative, 25% positive and 8% neutral. All told less than half a percent of the total

ridership has submitted comments. Feedback has also been submitted by operators. Data is also being evaluated including travel times and ridership by stops. Process will be to take the results of the feedback, the public hearing, the data, and the recommendation from the CAC to the PSI Board on March 2 and then send a recommendation to the City.

The committee discussed the data and comments presented. Potter proposed that the committee support the closure of 1st & Harrison due to the improved safety situation and extending the trial of the remaining stops. Farhoodi requested the addition of SW 10th & Stark due to resulted improvement of travel times. The amendment to the proposal was accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Portland Streetcar Website Redesign Update

Bower reported that the redesign continues and that preliminary wire frames have been submitted. Potter suggested asking the Oregon Commission for the Blind and Elders in Action would be great resources for review.

6. Streetcar & Rider Promotion Event Brainstorming

Held for a future meeting.

7. Staff Updates

Bower presented the updated data for ridership and performance. Bower reported that the Broadway Bridge will be closed beginning March 21 for approximately three weeks. This should be the last closure for the painting project and will allow the workers to take down all of the scaffolding. Streetcar will operate a modified Loop route from the Pearl to the east end of the Broadway Bridge that was run the last full closure of the bridge. The schedule will be published online.

8. Other Business

The committee discussed possible ways to improve B-Loop service on Broadway and Grand moving forward.

The next meeting for the Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be Thursday, March 17, 2016, 3:30pm-5:00pm at City Hall, Pettygrove Room. Please call Julie Gustafson at (503) 222-4200 or email at julie.gustafson@portlandstreetcar.org if you have any questions regarding this committee. The CAC meetings are open to the public.