Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2018, 3:30-5:00 p.m., City Hall

Members in Attendance: Lenny Anderson; Bill Bagnall; David Brandt, Vice Chair; Carolyn Brock; Reza Farhoodi; Sorin Garber; Cora Potter; Zoe Presson; Owen Ronchelli, Chair; Debra Unverduss

Staff in Attendance: Andrew Plambeck, Dan Bower
Others in Attendance: Raymond Becich, Stephen Weber, John Sporseen, Clint Culpepper, Ana Johnson

1. Meeting Called to Order:
Ronchelli called the meeting to Order.

2. Public Comment
Ronchelli provided an opportunity for public comment.

Ms. Johnson has a friend who lives downtown and has difficulty tapping a HOP card and getting to a seat with her walker before the streetcar moves. There are also no call buttons for the ramp near the priority seating area.

Mr. Weber asked when the timetables are due to be reissued. Bower replied that the new timetables will be issued at the beginning of September.

3. Advisory Boards and Commissions Guidance Update
Plambeck gave an overview of the upcoming new rules for City of Portland advisory committees and term limits. These new rules will affect the CAC and members will be required to fill out conflict of interest forms. The rules will take effect this fall.

4. May 24 Collision Overview
Plambeck gave an update on the May 24 collision and derailment. The preliminary findings were released last week into the cause, which was a screw that came loose and lodged in the handle. The operator was unable to stop the streetcar and hit multiple other vehicles. A preventive maintenance plan has been developed for that piece of equipment and the manufacturer has been contacted. The group discussed which cars have that same kind of mechanism, the details of the collision and the preventive maintenance plan.

5. Project Updates
Bower provided an update on the planning for the Northwest Portland expansion. The City allocated $370,000 to further develop that project that will go to the Bureau of Transportation and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. The money will mostly go to reach agreement among all the partners and work on details of land use planning and other elements of planning in the area. Metro will be applying for a Federal Transit Administration transit-oriented development planning grant that could be used for a
number of planning tasks around the corridor. The group discussed potential loss of industrial land, rezoning, the ESCO property's sale and the turnback location and alignment on the east side.

The minutes from May 17 were approved (Unverdruss moved, Anderson seconded).

6. Subcommittees Update
Plambeck gave an update on the Equity, Advocacy and Communications Subcommittee. Another meeting was held that continued work on a mission statement and values for the organization, which will eventually come to the CAC and then to the board. The subcommittee wants to have a joint meeting with the Bus Riders Union and perhaps some other groups to discuss who isn’t being served by the streetcar and why. The group discussed ways to have CAC members do more outreach, contracting IRCO for targeted outreach and types of events for outreach opportunities.

5. 2018 Streetcar Mobile Music Fest Update
Plambeck gave an update on the 2018 Streetcar Mobile Music Fest, which will happen on July 22 in conjunction with the Green Loop Sunday Parkways. Bands will be loading at the PSU Urban Center Plaza on A Loop trains between 1-4 p.m. The lineup is nearly complete and will be released around the beginning of July. The group discussed favorite acts from previous years and who has signed on so far this year.

6. Other Business
Garber raised the issue of fare evasion after having witnessed someone telling another rider that they don’t need to pay. Bower replied that a third security officer was added about a month ago, but they have other problems that take up most of their time.

Bagnall complimented the outreach happening on Portland Streetcar’s social media to share data and information. He also mentioned that the streetcars lately look very dirty and wondered whether there was an outage in the washing operation.

Farhoodi brought up that the CAC meeting time is not inclusive of people who work and it makes it difficult to attend. He recommended changing the time to 6:00 p.m., when the City’s other modal advisory committees meet.

The group discussed adding additional HOP readers on the streetcars and why they don’t exist at the stations, which is due to the stations only having solar power, which limits how many devices can be powered there.

Potter added that for people who live in East Portland, an east side meeting location would make it a lot more accessible.

Presson commented that she often gets on the streetcar and forgets to tap her HOP card right away and is often tapping at the next stop. Bower replied that it might be good to get back on the CAT agenda to talk about HOP and how it’s working or not.
Mr. Weber asked whether any research had been done into why people don’t pay their fares, and perhaps how often it’s because the vending machine is unintuitive. He asked why the HOP card readers aren’t put right at the doors. Bower replied that we would likely just add more.

Ronchelli asked that if members of the committee know they would like to discuss something, that to make it known in advance so it can be on the agenda and staff can prepare to discuss it.

The next meeting for the Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be Thursday, July 19, 2018, 3:30pm-5:00pm at Portland City Hall, Pettygrove Room.