

Portland Streetcar Community Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 15, 2019, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Bogue Boardroom, 3rd Floor, Karl Miller Center, Portland State University, 615 SW
Harrison Street

Members in Attendance: Lenny Anderson; Bill Bagnall; Raymond Becich; David Brandt, Chair; Carolyn Brock; Michael Cannarella; Soren Garber; Susan Pearce; Zoe Presson; Debra Unverdruss; Stephen Weber, Erik Wilson

Staff in Attendance: Dan Bower

1. Meeting Called to Order:

Brandt called the meeting to order.

_____ moved, and _____ seconded, to approve the minutes from July 18. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Brandt provided an opportunity for public comment.

3. E-scooters parking at platforms

Bower introduced the issue of people parking e-scooters at platforms, and the need to call the vendor to get them removed. The group discussed the delay in the companies taking action to remove scooters, the City of Portland's efforts to create designated e-scooter parking spaces (including at the former streetcar stop at NW 11th and Everett) and e-scooter use generally.

4. Upcoming Scavenger Hunt and Mobile Music Fest

Bower informed the group that the scavenger hunt scheduled for Saturday has been postponed due to planned political protests in the downtown area. There have been multiple news stories about several events and activities being cancelled for that day due to the same reason. He also said the Mobile Music Fest has been moved to October 12 and that Portland Streetcar is participating in the Green Loop Sunday Parkways on August 25. Bower invited CAC members to join the PSI table at the Street Trust's annual Alice Awards fundraiser.

Bower explained that the new schedule will take effect September 1, with 13 streetcars at peak service—up from 12. One streetcar will be on the B Loop in the morning and then switch to the A Loop in the afternoon and evening.

Bower described delays in the schedule for new streetcars being built in Brookville, Pennsylvania, due to delays with the Tempe and problems recruiting and retaining workforce.

5. Montgomery Park to Hollywood project update

Bower gave an update about the Federal Transit Administration grant for the Montgomery Park to Hollywood extension. The City has published a report on work completed so far with funding that was provided in summer 2018 by the City Council. There is now an intergovernmental agreement between the City and Metro to begin the FTA scope of work. The buyers of the ESCO property have also been attempting to push the alignment on Wilson only instead of a couplet on York and Wilson. A larger meeting is coming up with City staff and multiple property owners in NW Portland to dive into the alignment in a bit more detail. Bower is also concerned about cost increases as Tacoma's similar-length expansion project has grown significantly in cost. The group discussed developers' interests in the alignment locations, pros and cons of the York/Wilson couplet, the confines of a local improvement district and its relationship to potential cost increases. Bower also discussed some newly revived interest in the John's Landing alignment.

6. Vehicle and camera procurement update

Bower gave an update on the procurement for installing cameras on the fleet, which is funded and now eligible for a sole source contract that should get underway in the next few months. The group discussed liability and security reasons for camera installation.

7. Committee status update

Bower gave an overview of the sunset of this committee and PSI's future public engagement, as well as the City of Portland's process for revising public advisory committees. The group discussed potential engagement opportunities through the PSI board, subcommittees and other endeavors, including the potential for a PBOT Transit Advisory Committee. The group also discussed ways in which this group can continue to provide input to PSI in a less formal manner either through ad hoc subcommittees or a more regular informal gathering.

The group also discussed ridership declines, reasons people don't want to ride the streetcar and other trends and perceptions. Bower gave an update on ridership and the frequency and convenience of the service.

8. Other business

Pearce recounted a conversation from the Central Eastside Industrial Council about Major League Baseball's potential stadium siting at Lloyd Center.

Garber brought up the change to evening meetings and whether that has been working. Brandt replied that if the transition is happening in the next month that would be a good time to discuss meeting timing and scheduling.

Bower gave an overview of a project PSI conducted on behalf of Vulcan to inform the City of Seattle on advertising and sponsorship revenue and programs. The group discussed sponsorships, transit advertising and related issues.

Brandt said the next meeting will be September 19.

Brandt adjourned the meeting.