

PORTLAND STREETCAR UPDATE
March 2002

It has been suggested that the Streetcar CAC receive an update on Streetcar operations because of the cancellation of the February and March 2002 CAC meetings.

- Ticket dispensing machines - parts have been ordered for the installation of bill (\$1 & \$5 bills) accepting mechanisms to retrofit on the current machines and bars in order to relocate the ticket machine toward the window and wall of the Streetcar. These retrofits are scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2002.
- The Streetcar Real Time system is installed and will be activated on Monday, March 25 at all locations where a signaling device is located. A press briefing will be held at the Streetcar Maintenance facility on Tuesday, March 26 at 1:00pm. This system will indicate the real time arrivals of the next two streetcars at the stop locations. It also has the ability to communicate special messages like; no smoking at the platforms, streetcars have been delayed 30 minutes, etc.
- Schedules will be installed at each platform stop locations showing on Monday through Friday, from 7am-7pm, trains will operate every 12-15 minutes, Saturday from 12pm-6pm, trains will operate every 12-15 minutes. All other schedule running times will be indicated.
- Marshall Street is to close to car traffic very soon, but will remain open to bicycles and pedestrians. Safety issues are the main concern for this closure. A task force committee consisting of neighborhood representatives as well as businesses directly adjacent to NW 16th and Marshall will be invited to attend. This meeting is to be set up late March or early April.
- Ridership counts continue on Streetcar. Counts for Streetcar in January were an average weekday count of 4,200 (up from 3,700 in December) and 2,600 for Saturdays (including Vintage Trolley). We feel Saturday ridership has declined because of lack of destinations available during the winter. Saturday ridership should increase again, when the Saturday markets reopen, etc.
- RiverPlace extension - this extension has reached some serious roadblocks with work being done to put into place the necessary money to move forward. As you may remember from past reports, the Portland Development Commission was a participant in providing financing for this extension. Because of a court ruling in December of last year, PDC is limited on the resources they can expend. Streetcar staff is working on a Plan A and Plan B (attached) for financing which would eliminate the need for PDC financing. Plans A & B show the RiverPlace Extension construction alignment with the Harrison road connector not included. The track(s) would be constructed without roadway construction. The funding strategy involves increasing the money from the ODOT/PDOT land exchange and sale, increasing the amount of the LID, seeking a federal transportation budget earmark and other steps. It is anticipated that this funding strategy will take approximately 6 months to implement.
- A new general Streetcar brochure has been produced and distributed. Also a Streetcar "ride & dine" guide has been produced and distributed. The "ride and dine" guide has been very popular and has paid for itself

and more due to restaurant sponsorships. This brochure will be redone in May of this year and we expect more restaurants to participate.

Please feel free to call me with any questions, 503/478-6404. Our next meeting is scheduled for 3PM, Wednesday, April 10 at Shiels Oblatz & Johnsen, 115 NW First Avenue, Suite #200. See you then.

Kay