Portland Streetcar Citizen Advisory Committee  
December 11, 2002, Portland Streetcar Construction Office, 115 NW First Avenue, Suite #200  
Members in Attendance: John Carroll; Steve Fosler; Stan Lewis; Ken McFarling; Janet McGarrigle; Carol Presson; Vern Rifer; Chris Smith  
Other Attendees: Alex Roth  
Staff Attendance: Kay Dannen; Roger Shiels  

The meeting was called to order by our Chair, John Carroll. John welcomed our visitor to the meeting. Stan recommended that a history of Streetcar be produced. The minutes were approved as recorded.  

1. RiverPlace Extension  

Roger gave the committee an update on the RiverPlace Extension. On December 11, Portland City Council approved the phase 3 Streetcar Local Improvement District (LID) for $3 million dollars. Also negotiations for additional operating funding from TriMet has been successful with a commitment of an additional $400,000 from TriMet for RiverPlace Extension operations. This amount will allow Streetcar to continue operating at the current 14-minute headways (time between cars).  

Chris recommended that the revenue from Northwest Parking changes be made available to make the Streetcar system free in Northwest. If that happens, could we continue with the free policy to North Macadam? Roger stated this is something that needs to be discussed and decided.  

Roger indicated the project will need to receive $2 million dollars from the land sale in area B (land to be reclaimed from ODOT at Naito and Harbor Way), to be used for capital funding for Streetcar. TriMet has brought up some issues regarding possible joint operations on Harrison, building Streetcar now and convert to light rail in the future. TriMet is revisiting the possibility of constructing the Caruthers Bridge again for light rail. Also TriMet may use Lincoln rather than the Harrison connector to join the downtown light rail to a Milwaukie line. Discussions are currently being held with TriMet regarding all these issues.  

The project is currently waiting on the appropriation from HUD for a grant in the amount of $600,000. There has been a proposal from the federal government to federalize the project. Project management staff is spending 60 days to evaluate the ramifications of federalization. The objective would be to gain adequate funding to take Streetcar down North Macadam to Gibbs. Staff is looking at the impact on schedule and cost. At some point the project will need to be federalized in order to fund future projects. Currently, the Portland Development Commission is funding most of the project. A recommendation will be made to the Portland Streetcar, Inc. board at their next meeting February 4, 2003.  

John expressed a high degree of concern that if federalized, the project will be complicated and will cost more. Final engineering drawings to be completed by February 1, 2003 for the phase III RiverPlace Extension.
Roger reported that TriMet has expressed an interest in extending Streetcar to Lake Oswego. Streetcar, at this point, has been having discussions with eastside constituents regarding east side Streetcar connections. Roger is not sure TriMet is supportive of Streetcar east side connections. PDC has contributed $100,000 for an east side study. The Lloyd District Improvement District endorsed a contribution of $50,000 to PDC, Portland Streetcar, Inc., and the Portland Office of Transportation to initiate an east side Streetcar alignment study. PDC has aggressive plans for the Lloyd District with Streetcar as one of the components. Hank Ashforth has been appointed chair of the east side steering committee.

Vern and John suggested we meet with east side neighborhood and business associations and other interested constituents to develop the support base for east side Streetcar expansion. It will be important to recruit east side CAC members to further this objective. The intent is to involve east side parties into the current CAC core group. Vern is to call Peter Finley Fry and Rick Williams for a list of potential interested parties to invite to our next CAC meeting. Many issues on the east side need to be resolved regarding pedestrian, bike and streetcar alignments. Roger indicated the study on East Side Streetcar is commencing in February and ending in May 2003, with a recommendation to the City Council on May 14, 2003.

2. Fare Machines

Kay reported that customer service representatives from Portland State University complied surveys for two weeks in November. These staff members took a survey on the variations of fare instruments used in the fare collection area of the Streetcar route and assisted riders with using the fare machines. The surveys concluded:

Type of fare instrument used:
15% of riders used a Streetcar annual pass
21% of riders purchased fares on the car
53% of riders had TriMet tickets
12% of riders had no fare

3. Sponsorship Update

Current sponsorships include 4 car sponsors, 19 stop location sponsors, 32 restaurant sponsors and 2 general brochure sponsors. Current projected income for 2003 is $140,000.00.

4. Other Business

It was suggested that the next meeting be at an alternative location. Kay will find a location and advise all committee members. The next meeting of the Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, February 12 at 3:00PM; location to be advised. Please call Kay Dannen at 503/478-6404 if you have any questions regarding this committee.