

Portland Streetcar Citizen Advisory Committee

June 6, 2007, 3:30PM-5:30PM, Shiels Oblatz Johnsen, 1140 SW 11th Avenue, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97205

Members in Attendance: Chris Smith, chair; Scott Bricker, Lynne Coward, Bill Danneman, Michael Dennis, Peter Finley Fry, Bob Harrington, Mary Kennedy, Stan Lewis, Janet McGarrigle, Ann Niles, Carol "Zoe" Presson, Bob Richardson, Scott Seibert, Vern Rifer

Other Attendees: Wendy Smith Novick, Patrick Sweeney, Louise Tippens

Staff Attendance: Kay Dannen

The meeting was called to order by our chair Chris Smith. The minutes from April 4, 2007 were approved as presented. Introductions were made.

1. Public Comment Period.

There were no comments presented by the public-at-large.

2. City-Wide Streetcar System Plan.

Patrick Sweeney introduced Louise Tippens and Wendy Smith Novick, working as public involvements specialists, whose responsibility is to provide the public process to support the City Streetcar System Plan. Louise provided an update on the process which started in June of this year, with completion expected in June of 2008. A Streetcar System Plan (SSP) public process plan was presented to the CAC for review. Elements include background work on the SSP, corridor screening process options narrowed, development of the implementation strategy and ultimately Planning Commission and City Council Hearings which would result in recommended SSP corridors. Patrick indicated that the SSP is working with Metro and TriMet to interface with the Regional Transportation Plan. Louise indicated a System Advisory Committee will be selected which will include representatives from the Streetcar CAC including business and neighborhood interests within the City. This group will represent advocacy for future Streetcar alignments as well as a vision for the public. It is expected that 8-10 potential corridor tiers will develop, and through the public process a narrowing would result with recommendations by City Council in early summer 2008.

On Friday, July 27, 2007, from 8:00am - 5:00pm, a Regional Streetcar Workshop "Streetcars and Cities in the 21st Century" is being planned in Portland sponsored by Reconnecting America. Workshop Goals include:

- * Educate the community about streetcars - why streetcars & why now?
- * Discuss issues between economic development and the streetcar
- * Present up-to-date streetcar statistics - opportunities and benefits
- * Discuss political strategies to build regionalized support

This workshop is one of 4 being held across the country. On Saturday, July 28 from 9am to 12noon a local brainstorming session will be held to provide an opportunity for streetcar advocates to share ideas.

3. Block 153 (Jasmine block) update:

Kay reported that the streetcar alignment regarding block 153 (Jasmine block) is currently being discussed by streetcar, PDC and the City. This block is bordered by SW 5th

& 4th / Harrison and Montgomery. Alignment options include a double diagonal through the block, a single diagonal through the block and double tracking following the current alignment on Montgomery and SW 4th.

The prevailing issue is the cost to construct, who pays and how the design impacts this development site. Bob introduced his recommendations for this block and concerns for block 153.

Issues:

- * The high level of pedestrian activity in the PSU area
- * The goal to reduce rider confusion by keeping routes and stations clearly visible
- * The complex interaction of streetcar, bikes, autos and light rail along the new transit mall
- * The goal to ensure smooth & delay-free operation of the streetcar by utilizing a direct and logical route

Recommendation:

- * Recommendation of a dual-track alignment through block 153 was passed by majority by the CAC committee. Chris was instructed to provide a letter on behalf of the CAC to Commissioner Adams supporting the above recommendation.

4. Project Updates:

Lowell Extension Opening.

Kay indicated that the Lowell Extension planning is in full swing, with full sponsorship support, inaugural first rides from SW Park and Market, event ceremonies including entertainment and refreshments at the SW Lowell terminus on Friday, August 17, 11am. All CAC members will receive invitations for the inaugural first rides departing from SW Park and Market on Friday, August 17th at 10:30am. Kay also indicated that Streetcar operations ran a test car under power on the Lowell Extension for the first time last week - everything went well.

Lake Oswego Transit Alternative Analysis.

Vern provided an update of the Lake Oswego Transit Alternative Analysis process. Public meetings are scheduled on June 27 and June 28 with a public hearing & recommendation form LOPAC of the Locally Preferred Alternative in July 2007 with the Steering Committee meeting in September and the final Metro Council vote to be scheduled in the fall 2007. Current project estimated cost is \$150 million. Scott indicated the trail connections in this SW corridor is one of the five top bike projects for the City, with an estimated \$5-7 million bike/trail project.

Loop.

Chris updated the CAC on the progress with the Loop project. Alignment constraint issues at the south end at OMSI are being studied. Constraints include an overhead power line, the unknown MLK LRT location for the bridge crossing and the Union Pacific RR crossing which is requiring a Streetcar overpass. Several options are being studied at the OMSI temporary terminus. Loop connections at Lovejoy and 10th/11th are being discussed with the Pearl District Neighborhood Association, of which Ann Niles is the transportation chair. Operations funding, which needs to be identified for 20 years, is in process. The future of fareless square is part of that discussion with a comprehensive & equitable approach to the downtown/Lloyd Center current fare structures. The 20-year operations and capital funding plans for the Loop need to be provided to FTA by August of this year. Vern indicated that the project should do everything it can do to get to and maintain 10-minute headways

on the existing streetcar alignment as well as the Loop. Chris indicated there is some conversation associated with the operations funding with the Loop that would result in 15-minute headways in the S. Waterfront and NW sections of the current Westside alignment. The CAC endorsed a recommendation in the form of a letter to Commissioner Adams that ensures that service does not diminish on any section of the current alignment.

5. Other business:

Bob provided some visuals and voiced a concern regarding the Lowell Extension into South Waterfront where the tracks parallel a 2-block park between Moody and Bond/Curry and Gaines. Because of the catenary poles which support the Streetcar catenary wires and the temporary wooden poles that have been placed in the sidewalks on Bond and Moody, very little space is available for a clear walking path for pedestrians. Kay indicated that the wooden poles are temporary and that an accessible path is currently provided for. Kay will check with Streetcar construction to determine the estimated timeframe for removal of the wooden poles, which will free up more sidewalk space for pedestrians.

Kay provided a draft of the redesign for the stop location frame map signage. Kay indicated that all current 2x4' signage boards will be replaced with the Lowell Extension opening on August 17. Discussion was held by the CAC on possible change recommendations.

6. Next CAC Meeting:

The next meeting for the Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be Wednesday, August 1, 2007, 3:30pm-5:00pm at Shiels Oblatz Johnsen, 1140 SW 11th Avenue, Suite #500, Portland, Oregon.

Please call Kay Dannen at 503/478-6404 or email at dannen@portlandstreetcar.org if you have any questions regarding this committee or have items for the agenda. The CAC meetings are open to the public.

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