Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2010, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Shiels Obletz Johnsen

Members in Attendance: Owen Ronchelli, chair; Debbie Cronk; Bill Danneman; Stan Lewis; Janet McGarrigle; Susan Pearce; Zoe Carol Presson; Bob Richardson; Dan Zalkow

Others: Arnold Panitch, Dustin Posner

Staff Attendance: Kay Dannen, Julie Gustafson, Brodie Harvey

1. Meeting to Order:
   Meeting was called to Order by Owen Ronchelli, chair. The minutes from the March 3, 2010 meeting were adopted.

2. Public Comments:
   Stan Lewis commented that it seems like it’s been a long time since the PSI Board asked the CAC’s advice about anything and would like to recommend that the Chair pass along that on the Board’s agenda there should be a routine item for recommendations to the CAC. Let it be on their shoulders that the CAC is waiting and ready for a new task. Owen Ronchelli responded that this recommendation is timely as there are some meaty items coming up that the committee will be discussing including, but not limited to, the fare structure in the future as the Loop and future alignments open as well as the System Concept Plan and evaluating the listed alignments. Dan Zalkow seconded Lewis’s recommendation and stated that it appears that the CAC has become more informational and less advisory over time. Ronchelli added that the committee will also be discussing operational issues as the Loop opens. These conversations will be held not in the distant future, but soon.

3. Project Updates
   Loop Project Update:
   Kay Dannen reported that construction is finishing up the last track segment before the Rose Festival Moratorium, June 3-15. During the Moratorium crews will be working on utility work on NE 7th from Oregon to Clackamas and in the Pearl District as well as finishing up track work on NE Broadway from 2nd to Victoria. The full closure of the Broadway Bridge starts July 6, 2010 for 60 days. Crews will be working on the center lift during the closure. During that time track crews will install the track from the freeway to the bridge on Broadway and Weidler to take advantage of the lessened amount of traffic on the streets. After the bridge closure, track crews will work 6am to 11pm in the Pearl to get the work done. September 13-26, 2010 the streetcar will be replaced by a bus bridge so that track crews can replace some existing track with new pieces including new crossings and switches. Zalkow asked if the full bridge closure would include closing the bridge to bicycles and pedestrians. Dannen responded that the south sidewalk will remain open during the closure to allow for bicycle and pedestrian access. There is a big update meeting for the Pearl District Thursday, June 10, 2010 starting at 6pm at the Ater-Wynne law offices in the Lovejoy Building, 1331 NW Lovejoy, Ste. 900. Ronchelli asked what kind of time savings the longer work days will provide in the Pearl. Dannen responded that it will save up to a year. The project has run into delays with the sewer work currently ongoing in the Pearl as there has been contaminated materials resulting in some illness among workers.

   The opening date for the Loop has been pushed back to Fall 2012 due to the delivery of the vehicles. The debate over the propulsion system has been resolved; the new vehicles will have the Elin system (same as the original 10 vehicles). The prototype vehicle has been returned to United
Streetcar/Oregon Iron Works so that they can replace the propulsion system with a prototype system from Rockwell. The car with the new propulsion system will be on our alignment in 2011.

The construction team has been working hard to maintain safe paths for the bike community. There was a crash at Broadway and Williams that involved the cyclist being taken to the emergency room. The public believed that this was related to the streetcar construction, it was not our project, but we are taking the initiative to be extra cautious on all bikeways.

Dannen asked if the CAC members have heard any comments from the public at large about construction. Susan Pearce brought up an issue that was raised by Bob Wentworth. Cyclists travelling eastbound off the Burnside Bridge are crashing as they turn right onto MLK. She suggested adding signage to help warn the public. Ronchelli added that the Lloyd TMA has heard some complaints about traffic from the public, but that they’ve also heard that people are pleased and impressed with how efficient and fast the construction has been progressing.

Ronchelli added that he met with Milan Haloun of Inekon when he was in town and that Inekon would like to make sure that the committee and PSI are aware that they are still there and still able to produce vehicles for the project.

Arnold Panitch asked if the development on the Loop is progressing slower than projected and if so, when development can be expected. Dannen responded that we are in a different economy than we were when the first alignment was built and that there are planned projects that are awaiting a pick up in the economy. Panitch proceeded to ask about the Burnside Bridgehead project and if that is progressing. Julie Gustafson responded that PDC has approved the framework plan for the Bridgehead project and are moving forward.

Stan Lewis thanked Kay Dannen for all of her work over the years to drum up interest and support for the streetcar from the beginning. He added that within a couple of weeks of the very first streetcar tracks being laid, entrepreneurs started building development.

**Portland/Lake Oswego Project Update:**
No Update. Meetings are ongoing.

4. **Other Business**
Arnold Panitch commented that he was at the Inn at Northrup Station and saw the NextBus display in their lobby and was wondering if there are any other locations where this exists. Kay Dannen responded that we have about 6 of those signs around and that they are available by request. There is a cost associated with it that the business pays. Panitch added that it is a valuable tool for those businesses.

Bill Danneman asked if there is anything to report on the proposed elevating of Moody and the impact to streetcar. Dannen has asked Chris Armes with PBOT to come present to the committee about the Moody construction. She will give a full update at the September meeting. Debbie Cronk stated that planning an update for the South Waterfront neighborhood would be productive as there are rumors that the construction will cut off the neighborhood and that streetcar will be shut down at that time. Dannen responded that streetcar will not be shut down.
Dustin Posner asked if there has been any talk or updates on the Jasmine Block development and the rebuilding of the streetcar tracks in the area. Dannen responded that we do not have an update at this time, but that we will schedule an update for an upcoming meeting.

Ronchelli shared with the committee that he met with the Mayor’s office about the CAC. The impetus for this was the completion of the Portland Streetcar System Concept Plan. The Mayor’s office would like to see a broader slice of the City on this committee since the streetcar is no longer just a Central City issue. There will be an addition of a few people from neighborhoods outside the Central City. The committee will then be discussing broader topics such as future alignments and potentially helping to narrow the field. One of the other results of these changes may be a change of venue – giving the meeting a more public feeling. Susan Pearce asked what other venues are being discussed. Ronchelli responded that it will most likely be City Hall. The message to the committee from the Mayor’s Office is that this group has done great work and that they want to add to, not take away from, the group. Pearce agreed that expanding the committee is a reasonable idea and that it seems like the focus of the group is changing as we take on the System Plan.

Dannen reported that streetcar has been looking into an exclusion ordinance so that we can have the right to remove people from the streetcar that are causing disruptions. Over the past year there has been a large increase in the amount of people that are intoxicated, mentally unstable causing problems for other riders, drug affected individuals and fare evaders. Posner asked about the time frame of the ordinance. Dannen responded that she does not know at this time. Ronchelli asked if this is similar to the TriMet exclusion ordinance. Dannen responded that she is not sure, but that she will look into that.

Bob Richardson showed the committee the format of the new Portland Streetcar website which may be launched as early as this month. He outlined the issues with the current website and then showed the new site and how the new format fixes those issues. Stan Lewis expressed his gratitude to Bob for his work on revamping the website. Posner suggested adding a button at the top that links to fare information.

The next meeting for the Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be Wednesday, September 1, 2010, 3:30pm-5:00pm at Shiel Obletz 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.