

Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Portland Building, Room B

Members in Attendance: Owen Ronchelli, Chair; Lenny Anderson; David Brandt; Carolyn Brock; Bill Danneman; Reza Farhoodi; Jon Joiner; Arlene Kimura; Janet McGarrigle; Susan Pearce; Cora Potter; Zoe Presson; Vern Rifer;

Staff Attendance: Dan Bower, Julie Gustafson, Kathryn Levine

Guest: John Betts, Evette Farra, Adam Kriss

1. Meeting to Order:

Ronchelli called the meeting to Order. The minutes from the April 16, 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment

Ronchelli reminded the committee about the process for public comments in the CAC. The idea is that the CAC wants to allow for all public comment, concerns, and recommendations. Each commenter is allowed three minutes to state their issue. If the issue is big enough that more time needs to be dedicated to the discussion, the group can decide to do so at a later meeting. The public can also submit written comments.

Evette Farra, Portland Streetcar operator, reminded the committee that she had requested information about the logo design costs and has yet to receive a response. She added that she has requested a fire marshal inspect the Streetcar Operations & Maintenance facility as she believes it is not up to code with the recent addition of cubicle walls. She has submitted several requests to the City and has yet to receive a response. Farra added that she received a response from BOLI following her complaint that stated they believe her civil rights were violated and that they will be pursuing the case. Pearce responded that she needs more information on what building and which codes. Ronchelli asked for a letter detailing the issue so that they could follow up.

Adam Kriss, member of TriMet's Committee on Accessible Transportation, reported that there is a place on TriMet's contact form where you can submit a comment about the Streetcar but that each time he has, he receives a response from TriMet stating that he needs to contact Portland Streetcar directly as they don't handle those issues. He is looking to make the system simpler for the average user. Kriss added that the fare machines are cumbersome and confusing for people using the system. He asked why both machines are still needed. Thirdly, he asked about the naming of the two lines as many people are confused by the NS and CL and would like to see things simplified with the opening of the new extended line over the Tilikum Crossing.

Gustafson responded that the original setup was to forward the emails concerning Portland Streetcar to PSI for response. Something happened in the past 6 months that changed that process at TriMet. Gustafson stated that she is working with TriMet staff to fix the situation and has started receiving the forwarded emails. Secondly, staff are working on redesigning the signage on the fare machines to help make them less confusing in coordination with the opening of the Tilikum Crossing and the fare changes occurring in September. Ronchelli responded that the naming came from the CAC.

3. Portland Bureau of Transportation Streetcar Strategic Plan

Kathryn Levine presented a draft of the PBOT Streetcar Strategic Plan which was requested as a result of the City's audit of Portland Streetcar. The plan is being used to pull all of the various policies and statements about Streetcar together into one document including origin, what it is, how it works, what is the purpose, what are the performance measures, and how does it connect into the Bureau's larger plan. The draft is not a higher level strategic plan that discusses the relationships including those between PBOT, TriMet and Portland Streetcar, Inc. This draft is focused on 2015-2020 and provides an overview of the system. Levine requested feedback from the committee both on the content included but also on what is missing by June 5. Gustafson volunteered to collect the comments and submit them to the City.

Rifer asked if other departments will also be weighing in on this plan as the economic benefits and planning play key roles in Streetcar. Levine responded that it does take all components into consideration but was written exclusively by staff at PBOT. Rifer suggested that the plan would benefit from input by those who study economics and planning have a chance to provide input and contribute. Pearce seconded Rifer's suggestion.

Kimura suggested adding labels to the charts and data as it is unclear what the units are in various sections. Brandt responded that the draft is a nice brochure and history of Portland Streetcar but not a true strategic plan which states where you are, where you are going and how you plan to get there.

4. Mayor's Action on City Budget to Speed up Streetcar

Bower reminded the committee of their conversation in March about service efficiencies and the ideas to improve the speed and reliability of the Streetcar. The letter with the recommendations from that meeting was submitted to the Director of Transportation as well as the Commissioner. Independent of the letter, the Mayor decided during the "Spring Bump" he was going to move \$250,000 both this year and next towards improving Streetcar operations. The money is broken into three major portions: 1) perform some needed maintenance work that has to occur this summer, 2) money to fix the signaling at SW 4th & Harrison which would permit streetcars to travel both directions through the intersection which was identified by the CAC, and 3) study Broadway/Weidler, 10th/11th and MLK/Grand to see if there are ways to improve efficiencies as well as study the proposal of station consolidation.

5. Fare Change Outreach

Bower reported that staff have been to every community association that wanted a presentation along the alignment to discuss the proposed fare change as well as the upcoming Broadway Bridge painting project and Central Loop closure. There was no large opposition to the fare change. As part of the upcoming change, the Annual and Monthly pass prices will increase as well and will see the implementation of Streetcar Only Honored Citizen & Youth Monthly and Annual passes.

6. Loop Opening Celebration

Gustafson reported that there are a few things going on for the celebration. Portland Streetcar will open the full Loop in conjunction with TriMet on September 12, 2015 over the Tilikum Crossing. Part of the celebration will be partnering with other organizations including TriMet and Hassalo on Eighth. Rather than trying to compete with the large events TriMet is organizing for that day, Streetcar will be hosting a fun social media based contest with prizes that will encourage people to get on and off the streetcars to participate. More details will be available at the July meeting. Visit CatchTheOrange.com to find out more about all of TriMet's events happening over the summer and on opening day. The other big part of the celebration is putting together a "History of Portland Streetcar" video that tells the story of how Portland Streetcar came to be.

7. Preview Rides

Gustafson invited the committee to join a preview ride over the Tilikum Crossing on June 18 at 10:30am in place of the June meeting. Formal invitations are set to send out on Friday.

8. Staff Updates

Bower reported on Rose Festival service. For the Starlight Parade on Saturday, May 30 from 6pm until the end of the day the North South line will operate from 3rd & Harrison to SW Lowell & Bond only. The Central Loop will operate on the east side and then up around Northrup/Lovejoy to 23rd and back across to the east side. For the Grand Floral Parade on Saturday, June 6 from the beginning of the day to approximately 2pm after the parade the only service will be from SW 3rd & Harrison to SW Lowell & Bond. No other service will operate until the streets are cleared.

Bower reported that beginning June 12 at approximately 7pm the Central Loop will close for 6-10 weeks during the painting project on the Broadway Bridge. PSI is working with the Monthly and Annual pass holders to get them TriMet fare during the closure.

9. Other Business

Brock asked if there will be another music fest this fall. Gustafson responded that there are plans for a 2015 Streetcar Mobile Musicfest this October. Details will be shared when they are finalized.

The next meeting for the Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be Thursday, July 16, 2015, 3:30pm-5:00pm at City Hall, Pettygrove Room. Please call Julie Gustafson at (503) 222-4200 or email at julie.gustafson@portlandstreetcar.org if you have any questions regarding this committee. The CAC meetings are open to the public.