

Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2015, 3:30-5:00 p.m., City Hall, Pettygrove Room

Members in Attendance: Owen Ronchelli, Chair; Lenny Anderson; Bill Danneman; Arlene Kimura; Janet McGarrigle; Susan Pearce; Cora Potter; Bob Richardson;

Staff Attendance: Dan Bower, Julie Gustafson

Guests: John Betts; Adam Kriss; John Sporseen

1. Meeting Called to Order:

Ronchelli called the meeting to Order. The minutes from the August 20, 2015 meeting were approved with one modification.

2. Executive Director Annual Evaluation

The committee discussed the annual evaluation of Executive Director Dan Bower and provided their feedback. All staff left the room for this discussion.

3. Public Comment

Adam Kriss reported on an issue at SW 10th & 11th at Jefferson and Clay where drivers are blocking the streetcar tracks and causing traffic jams. Gustafson responded that this is a known issue that will require increased enforcement from the police department and is something that Streetcar Operations reports on a regular basis. Kriss added that there is a related issue where the operators excessively honk their horns when blocked. Potter asked if the excessive honking has been addressed. Gustafson responded that the issue is brought up during recertification and on a regularly updated report.

4. Opening Celebration Wrap Up

Gustafson reported that the opening celebration went well and thanked those committee members that were able to participate. Approximately 20,000 riders boarded the system on opening day, double the normal Saturday ridership. The Selfie Loop contest was also a huge success and produced a lot of buzz and excitement as well as fun photos. Anderson thanked staff for their work that day and for all of the preparations stating it was a highly successful day.

5. Update on Efficiencies Improvements

Bower reported that the striping on 10th and 11th Avenue south of Burnside has been completed creating a right turn only/streetcar lane. The remainder of the efficiencies improvements will be discussed at the October meeting.

6. Staff Updates

Bower asked the committee for their input on the level of investment and enforcement on the streetcar. Currently there is one Streetcar Officer and if there is an issue that requires further action the Central Precinct is called and they respond. In this year's budget, funding was added for a second Streetcar Officer who has yet to be hired. There is discussion occurring now whether that money should go towards hiring the second officer or towards joining the regional Transit Police division who patrol the rest of the region's transit. The benefits include the bigger umbrella of knowledge and coordination for larger scale events such as Presidential visits and International Track

meets. The cost for the transit police is twice that of one streetcar officer. Bower asked the committee to weigh in on the level of enforcement and their thoughts.

Potter commented that based on what she has witnessed, the Transit Police bring with them a knowledge of the individuals who frequently have issues on transit and are very good responding to those issues and individuals, but are less likely to write tickets for fare evasion. Richardson suggested having more faces on board checking fares as the perception is not that streetcar isn't safe but rather that people are not paying their fares. Pearce stated that having the connection to the regional knowledge and training will be beneficial as long as we are able to keep the fare enforcement personnel as well.

Anderson asked why the Streetcar is out of the loop on major events when the City of Portland is not out of the loop. Institutionally that connection should exist without forcing the city and streetcar to pay into the regional system and rather use that money for increased coverage by Streetcar Officers. Ronchelli stated that it is important to respond to the concerns that are voiced in the public of a lack of fare enforcement but there is value being tied in to the regional equation.

7. Other Business

Anderson pointed out that some of the printed transit maps from TriMet have the old Central Loop (CL) designation and colors rather than the A & B Loop information.

The next meeting for the Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be Thursday, October 15, 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.