

Portland Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2017, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Portland Streetcar, Inc.

Members in Attendance: Owen Ronchelli, Chair; Lenny Anderson; Bill Bagnall; Carolyn Brock; Michael Cannarella; Reza Farhoodi; Susan Pearce; Zoe Presson; Debra Unverdruss; Erik Wilson

Staff Attendance: Dan Bower, Kay Dannen, Julie Gustafson

Others in Attendance: Raymond Becich, Stephen Weber

1. Meeting Called to Order:

Ronchelli called the meeting to Order. The minutes from the November 17, 2016 meeting were approved.

2. Public Comment

Becich asked about the status of membership applications submitted in 2016.

Ronchelli responded that the membership subcommittee meeting had been postponed due to weather and would be reconvening soon. Part of the goal of the subcommittee is the desire to fill certain holes in the makeup of the committee.

Weber asked about the threshold for turning back in service streetcars when delays put streetcars 30 or more minutes behind. Gustafson responded that operations does the best they can to not turn back the streetcars. She added that during ice events it sometimes isn't possible to turn back the streetcars as the switches needed are frozen.

3. Storm Debrief

Gustafson reported that streetcar service experienced delays and interruptions with each storm that hit in December and January. The storm in January caused significant impacts to service due to downed trees and branches as well as frozen switches and poorly parked vehicles that blocked the tracks. All three lines experienced impacts including several days without B-Loop service. Bagnall commented that the online alerts and updates were very well done.

4. Upcoming Schedule/Run-Time Test

Bower reported that the Loops currently operate at a one hour run time allowing for the 15-minute frequency. Since the closure of the stations last February, actual run-time has been estimated. In order to resolve this, operations will try a pilot in late February and early March to operate with no schedule for 2-hour windows to get better data to populate our future schedules. This could result in schedules where streetcars run at different frequencies on each line as well as different frequencies based on time of day. Gustafson added that alerts will be posted letting people know that streetcars will be operating off schedule during specific time periods due to training and testing. Message will be more 1,000 foot level and informative rather than drilling into the specifics. Cannarella asked if the reader boards would still predict the arrival times. Gustafson responded they will be close to accurate but are based on the travel times programed into the current schedules.

5. Annual Report to City Council

Gustafson presented the draft Annual Report that will be published on www.portlandstreetcar.org. This report will also be the basis for Portland Streetcar's annual update to City Council in February.

6. Next Line Priorities and Recommendation

Bower presented to the CAC on the latest findings in the engineering evaluation of the future expansion of Streetcar. A recommendation needs to be made through the City to Metro for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan financially constrained list. Through all the evaluations and criteria, the alignment from Hollywood along NE Broadway, over the Broadway Bridge and up to Montgomery Park checked the most boxes and meets the current standards for federal funding. The committee discussed the findings and moved to submit a letter supporting the following priorities: 1) The acquisition of 3-5 additional streetcars to support and improve the existing system; 2) The inclusion of the Hollywood to Montgomery Park alignment in the RTP constrained funding list; 3) Continued evaluation of the remaining alignments for possible future extensions. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Other Business

Ronchelli asked for an update on NE Grand & Davis. Bower responded that the CAC's letter was submitted to PBOT and the Commissioner. A contract is now in place to design the project including how to best incorporate the Line 6 bus and freight allowing them to move through the area more efficiently as well.

The next meeting for the Streetcar Citizens Advisory Committee will be Thursday, February 16, 2017, 3:30pm-5:00pm at 700 NE Multnomah, 3rd Floor Conference 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.