

Eastside Project Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2005, 825 NE Multnomah, Second Floor Conference Room, 2:00pm

Members in Attendance: Mike Bolliger, Wayne Kingsley, Bill Medak, Rick Parker, Susan Pearce, Brad Perkins, Michael Powell, Chris Smith, Dee Walsh

Others: John Rumpakis

Staff Attendance: April Bertelsen, Kay Dannen, Peter Finley Fry, Rick Gustafson, Alan Lehto, Patty Montgomery, Ross Roberts, Dave Unsworth

1. Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Rick Parker. Minutes for the March 16 meeting were approved pending identified corrections.

2. Summary of Eastside and Portland to Lake Oswego Steering Committee Meeting:

An initial Steering Committee meeting was held on April 13, 2005. Ross Roberts commented that the meeting was well attended by the steering group with only Rex Burkholder and Maria Rojo de Steffey absent. Staff reviewed the alternative analysis process, Federal Transit Administration conversations and work programs for the Eastside Transit Alternative Analysis Study and Portland to Lake Oswego Alternative Analysis Study. The next meeting of the steering group is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 3:30PM at Metro. It was noted that about 5 citizens showed up for this kick-off steering committee meeting.

3. Eastside Alternatives Analysis Open House:

The open house is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26 from 4pm to 6pm at the Multnomah County Building in the Commission Chamber. The Multnomah County Building is located at 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. The purpose of the open house is to inform the public about the potential options to be studied during the transit alternatives analysis phase, the timing and schedule for the study, the criteria by which decisions will be made, and to offer an opportunity for public input. Dave outlined the format and content for the open house which will include several 2x3 ft. boards presenting the following:

- Open House Purpose
- Eastside Transit Alternatives Analysis
- Study Schedule
- Study Purpose and Need
- Future Growth
- Central City Districts
- Central City Visitors
- Potential Alternatives
- Previous Streetcar Alignments
- How to be Involved

Dave commented that west coast cities are growing faster than the northeast area of the US and we are seeing a younger group coming to Portland. Portland also has become high on the list as a retirement center. Metro will be conducting traffic use analysis and land use analysis in conjunction with the AA process for the Eastside. Even though we are losing jobs in the City of Portland, Metro is still showing a net

growth. Rick Gustafson indicated that the inner city Circulator was part of the Central City Plan of 1988. Mike Bolliger recommended that we place emphasis on the Central City circulator concept with connections to buses and MAX. Mike Powell emphasized the link between the east and west side. Rick G. provided Dave with a chart of development opportunities for the Lloyd Center District that was compiled by the Portland Development Commission. Further recommendations were made by committee members to expand the list of development potential in and around the proposed transit alignment. PAC committee members are encouraged to attend this workshop. Public testimony will be encouraged.

4. Transit Route Selection Process:

Rick Gustafson prepared a draft report that summarized the options considered by the Eastside Steering Committee, which was formed on Feb. 5, 2003 by the City of Portland. This committee was charged with making recommendations with regard to streetcar routes. It was asked that committee members review the draft and advise Rick of any needed modifications. The final report will be completed in mid-May. This final report will be used by Metro as part of the submittal to the Federal Transit Administration on the consideration of alternatives.

5. MTIP:

The Metro MTIP funding was approved by JPACT for \$1 million for Eastside construction. A special thanks to Chris Smith for his hard work in advancing our cause and Commissioner Sam Adams, who was instrumental in securing funding for both the Eastside and Lake Oswego studies.

6. City Council Action on Eastside Project:

The Portland City Council will consider a resolution authorizing funding for the Eastside Corridor Alternative Analysis on Wednesday, April 27, 2005. The resolution adopted by Portland Streetcar, Inc. was included in the committee packet. The Portland Development Commission has released funds to match the HUD funds to enable work to be funded through June 30, 2006. No money has been identified to cover the cost of an environmental assessment (cost estimated about \$250,000) if needed and/or an exclusion (cost would be substantially less).

7. Other Business:

Rick G. distributed an alignment drawing done by URS, our selected conceptual planning engineering firm, which shows a couple of alignments in and around OMSI. The map also depicts Streetcar running on the left side of Grand Avenue. Discussion was held on both these potential options – one using a flyover bridge to avoid the street level crossing of the railroad tracks.

Rick reiterated the schedule for the AA process, which in addition to the public workshop scheduled for April 26; another open house will be planned for October 2005 with a locally preferred alternative (LPA) being generated from this group which will be forwarded to the Steering Committee, and will in turn, move through the public jurisdictions for recommendations.

Rick indicated that the OCC Urban Renewal added \$2 million to Eastside transit to be allocated within five years. Talks are ongoing with the CEIC Urban Renewal District to include more funding – currently \$200,000 is obligated.

8. Public Comment Opportunity:

John Rumpakis elected to testify before the committee and introduced himself as a long time NE resident and business owner with about 2.5 blocks of property in the inner NE near the Lloyd Center District. John believes we are missing the boat by not extending the streetcar east to create a loop to at least NE 16th, if not further east to NE 21st. He pointed to the importance of revitalizing the Lloyd Center area. He was surprised and appalled that this extension through Lloyd Center has not been part of the initial planning of streetcar potential routes. An invitation was extended to John by Rick G. to discuss his ideas further. Rick suggested that maybe Chris Smith would like to be part of these discussions, because of his history with the selection of the original Streetcar alignment. He did indicate he is a big supporter of transit for Portland.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2005 at 2 pm, 825 NE Multnomah, second floor.