

Portland Streetcar Eastside Project Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2005, 825 NE Multnomah, Second Floor Conference Room, 2:00pm

Members in Attendance: Mike Bolliger, Wayne Kingsley, Rod McDowell, Rick Parker, Susan Pearce, Brad Perkins, Michael Powell, Dee Walsh

Others: Chris Smith, Vern Rifer

Staff Attendance: Kay Dannen, Peter Finley Fry, Rick Gustafson, Denyse McGriff, Ross Roberts, Richard Brandman, Dave Unsworth, Steve Iwata, Alan Lehto, Owen Ronchelli, Sloan Schang, Mark Turpel

1. Meeting called to order.

Rick Parker called the meeting to order. Mike Bolliger made a motion to approve the minutes from January 14. The minutes were seconded by Susan Pearce and approved by majority. There was a recommendation from Rick Gustafson to add Steve Fosler to the PAC. Steve is an architect, initial member of the CAC and would be a good link for the PAC to the Northwest District. This recommendation was approved by all attending members of the current PAC.

2. Metro Alternative Analysis Workshop.

Ross Roberts indicated that the Eastside PAC sponsored public workshop will be held at Metro on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 from 5-7PM. This workshop would seek public input on the options to enable the more feasible options to be identified for consideration in the alternatives analysis. The public workshop would include the purpose and need and description of options. Denyse indicated that the Portland Development Commission has a scheduled Central Eastside Development Opportunities Open House on the same day from 4-6PM. It was discussed that the PAC sponsored workshop may need to be rescheduled. Gina, Kay and Dave Unsworth to resolve.

3. Metro AA Process.

Dave Unsworth at Metro reviewed the proposed work and schedule with an organization chart for conducting the alternatives analysis. He indicated that the work with Lake Oswego is going on at the same time. Dave and Ross Roberts provided the draft eastside transit alternative analysis work plan which included the work plan purpose, purpose of the eastside transit alternatives analysis, eastside transit alternatives analysis process to date, federal alternatives analysis process, study organization, roles and responsibilities and work scope. Discussion was held on this process. Goal is to create a quantitative representation to invest in Streetcar in this corridor. Richard Brandman indicated he will be visiting FTA officials in Washington, DC in the near future and will report back to the Eastside PAC the results of those conversations. It is planned to bring a wide range of alternative analysis to the open house scheduled for late April 2005, with the goal of having the alternative analysis study completed and a single alignment recommendation to NEPA in December 2005. Rick Gustafson indicated that demand forecasting of ridership for the initial streetcar alignment was 2800 riders per day upon opening on 7/21/2001, current ridership is 5,700 riders per day. Original ridership forecasting was based on bus lines in Northwest Portland.

4. MTIP Hearing.

The City has requested \$1 million for Eastside Streetcar. The money was not included in the 85% funding list but is included in the alternative mode add package. It is important for members to testify at the hearing scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 5PM at Metro Council Chambers. Kay indicated that people can sign up to testify at 4:00PM, but testimony does not start until 5:00PM. It is first come, first serve with no advance sign-ups. Testimony is 3 minutes per person and it is recommended that the person testifying hand in their testimony to Metro staff when concluded. Currently, John Carroll, Michael Powell, Chris Smith, Sue Pearce, Scott Siebert and Tom Markgraf have signed up to testify. Hank Ashforth, Jeff Blosser, Bob Amundson, Mike Bolliger, Vern Rifer, Rod McDowell and Dee Walsh will send in email testimony.

5. Oregon Convention Center 5-Year Plan.

The Urban Renewal Advisory Committee is reviewing the PDC 5-year plan for the Oregon Convention Center district. No additional funds are provided for Streetcar in the plan. Rick Gustafson indicated he needed some help in approaching URAC at the February 23 meeting to urge that support be given to the streetcar proposal. It is important to demonstrate that streetcar is an important factor in connecting investment to development.

6. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 2PM, 825 NE Multnomah, second floor conference room.