

**Portland Streetcar Loop Project Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 2:00-3:30 p.m., Lloyd Tower, 825 NE Multnomah, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room**

*Members in Attendance: Hank Ashforth, Chair; Joe Angel; Daniel Deutsch; Rick Gustafson; Wayne Kingsley; Patrick LaCrosse; Sarah Masterson; Brad Perkins; Owen Ronchelli; Chris Smith*  
*Others: Lee Perlman*

*Staff Attendance: Kay Dannen, Julie Gustafson, Lloyd Lindley*

**1. Meeting to Order:**

Meeting was called to Order by Hank Ashforth, Chair. Minutes of the February 18, 2009 were approved.

**2. FTA Grant Status:**

Rick Gustafson presented to the committee that on Tuesday the FTA asked us to prepare a draft Project Construction Grant Agreement and to have it submitted by Thursday, April 23. The draft was prepared and submitted today, April 22. Sarah Masterson added that Congressman Blumenauer had conversations this week that led him to be cautiously optimistic that there should be an announcement in the near future about the project being funded. Wayne Kingsley stated that he thought we had already received the funds through Appropriations. Gustafson responded that having the Appropriation is a step and does not mean the money is in hand. Kingsley asked about the water line along Grand Ave that will be moved. He heard from the Water Bureau that they have a line item in their budget for water line work for the streetcar project and wanted to clarify if our project was paying or if the Water Bureau was paying. Gustafson responded that both entities will pay a portion for the water line relocation.

Pat LaCrosse asked if we have a construction sequencing schedule as of yet, specifically in regards to when the flyover to OMSI will be built. Kay Dannen responded that we should have an idea of the sequence soon. LaCrosse responded that building the flyover later in the process would be less complicated since a tenant in the area would be gone by the end of the project. Gustafson added that we are getting to the point in the process where major decisions are being made. We received the final bid from United Streetcar/Oregon Iron Works for the cars Tuesday, April 21. We will go to City Council on May 27 to get approval to order the rail and the cars and to begin the water work. LaCrosse asked what our absolute last date is that we could receive the Construction Grant Agreement and be able to stay on schedule and on budget. Gustafson responded that we need to have the Construction Grant Agreement before we place orders and that we need to place orders as soon as possible. We have been made to believe that if Secretary LaHood makes an announcement to support the project and get us the Construction Grant Agreement, the FTA would get us whatever we need to help us with our Notice to Proceed. On May 27 the vehicle order, water work and rail order will be in front of City Council. The rail we use is only rolled once a year at one company in the world in August. Wayne Kingsley asked if there is an American based company where we could buy the rail. Gustafson answered that no, there is no other company in the world at this point that makes this rail. The RI59 rail is shallower and allows us to dig a shallower rail bed saving cost and time in construction. We made two enormous innovations in the first alignment: 1) switching to the RI59 rail which helps the project avoid the majority of utility work, and 2) switching to the smaller substations which allows for better reliability and redundancy. Both innovations helped to reduce construction costs.

**3. Vehicle Order:**

The bid from Oregon Iron Works was received April 21.

**4. Water Utility Bids:**

Bids have been solicited for moving the water line on Grand Avenue. A contract with Stacy and Witbeck will be submitted to the Portland City Council in May.

**5. Pearl District Local Improvement District:**

A property owner meeting is begin scheduled in May to present a proposal for a local improvement district that will provide \$500,000 to support the Northrup option for streetcar construction.

**6. Public Presentations:**

Kay Dannen reported that the Community Outreach team is hosting four “Chats” along the alignment where constituents will have the opportunity to speak to URS and Stacy and Witbeck about the design and construction aspects. Dannen and Julie Gustafson are also presenting to Neighborhood and Business Associations about the project. The Spring newsletter was mailed out last week.

**7. Economic Development and Streetcar Loop:**

Lloyd Lindley presented that there was a working group with representatives from the CEIC and Lloyd TMA to evaluate the parking study and they were able to reduce the parking impact along the route. An updated report was handed out to the committee showing the changes made to the study. Wayne Kingsley asked how many representatives from the CEIC were in the work group. Lindley responded that 5 members of the CEIC participated. Joe Angel reiterated his issue from a prior meeting that having parking as close as possible to a retail business is crucial and that 400ft is not a reasonable proximity for retail. Gustafson stated that there was a recommendation from this committee to form development potential and economic development planning. He added that he agrees with Angel that 400 ft is not an acceptable distance, but that the work that Lindley is doing is to keep as many spaces as possible available in the area. The next step is to have people look at the parking policy (time limits on spaces, turn over, paid, free, etc) along the corridor to best suit each area’s needs.

Gustafson also stated that another project will be looking at how the fare structure can be focused more on the central city rather than just downtown. Wayne Kingsley stated that he had heard that some of the discussion surrounding changes to Fareless Square included a potential \$1 fare for streetcar in the central city. Gustafson responded that the potential \$1 fare is listed as a future possibility. Kingsley said that when asked, the TriMet representative stated they were not addressing streetcar since they don’t own it. Gustafson added that the fare issue is a double problem. First that we honor TriMet’s fares and don’t collect revenue from them and then second that we want to keep the fare system seamless so it is as easy as possible for the riders. Joe Angel asked why a Smart Card system is not being considered at this point. Gustafson responded that a big investment was recently made in the Transit Tracker system. Chris Smith added that the Streetcar CAC has discussed the potential of switching to a Smart Card system. There is a big technological development on the horizon for the Smart Card System and it may be revisited in the future. The fare issue is not something that should be decided by people from just one side of the river, but rather a conversation and decision that should be made with representatives and cooperation from the entire central city. Lee Perlman asked if there was any estimate on how instituting a fare downtown would affect ridership. Smith responded that the change in fare downtown could coincide with increased service thus making the change in ridership negligible.

Daniel Deutsch asked what the prominent arguments are for keeping Fareless Square for streetcar. Gustafson responded that it is a sense of pride and accomplishment as well as the use for institutions like Portland State University. The only way to change an icon is to improve it. Deutsch asked if there was a way to package adding a fare with green improvements to help ease the transition.

**8. Other Business:**

The subject of fare evasion came up. Rick Gustafson explained that we have fare surveyors who ride the trains outside of Fareless Square. The surveyors ask people how they paid for their fare and keep track of the answers. We are currently running at about 15-20% fare evasion.

**9. Public Comment:**

There were no comments presented by the public-at-large.

**Next Streetcar Loop PAC meeting:** 2:00 – 3:30pm, Wednesday, May 20, 2009, Lloyd Center Tower, 825 NE Multnomah, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.