

Portland Streetcar Eastside Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2004, Lloyd Center Tower, 825 NE Multnomah, 2nd floor conference room, 2:30PM

Members in Attendance: *Hank Ashforth, chair; Rick Parker, vice chair, Mike Bolliger, Dick Cooley, Susan Pearce, Joe Vaughn for J.E. Isaac, Wayne Kingsley, Brad Perkins, Michael Powell, Dee Walsh*

Others: *Chris Smith, Lee Perlman*

Staff Attendance: *Kay Dannen, Vicky Diede, Rick Gustafson, Michael Harrison, Owen Ronchelli, Sloan Schang, Phil Sellinger, Dave Unsworth*

1. Meeting called to order.

Hank called the meeting to order. Hank thanked all the Eastside Steering Committee members for their helpful testimony at the PDC budget hearing on Monday, April 26. CEIC and OCC representatives joined together to present a solid case for inclusion of the assigned CEIC URAC funds of \$500,000 and OCC URAC funds of \$600,000 in PDC FY 2004-05 fiscal budget. A letter from Congressman Earl Blumenauer was read in support of moving these URAC funds from PDC's contingency rating to a line item in the budget. Currently, PDC has earmarked these contingency funds to be available upon approval of the Federal T-21 reauthorization.

2. PDC Budget Status:

Rick indicated that testimony was very helpful in persuading the Commission to include funds in both districts to support efforts on the Streetcar. The money was earmarked by PDC and budgeted as a line item. The CEIC URAC funds show \$300,000 for FY 04-05 and \$200,000 for FY 05-06. Rick indicated it was very costly to hold up the process and working with the federal process becomes more difficult. Michael Harrison indicated that Commissioner Francesconi spoke with Don Mazziotti and asked why PDC should delay a good project? Jim is willing to participate and facilitate meetings with Don and other members of the commission to strengthen streetcar's position with PDC and relieve the tension that seems to exist between eastside streetcar representatives and PDC commissioners.

3. HUD Funding:

Eastside Streetcar has received notice of two grants from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amounts of \$90,000 and \$200,000. The City of Portland is preparing the application for these funds, which must be available to the City by September 30, 2004. Congressman Blumenauer obtained the \$90,000 and Senator Smith obtained the \$200,000. Vicky indicated these funds come with restrictions and she will be working with Marge Kafoury at the City for resolution. Rick feels confident these funds will be released to Eastside Streetcar. Normally when our senators and congressmen secure funds, they will assist with the distribution.

4. Federal Transportation Funds:

TEA-21 has passed both the House and Senate and awaits the conference committee and final adoption. There are still disagreements with the administration and a potential for a veto of the legislation. Congressman Blumenauer has successfully obtained funds in the amount of \$1.5 million. Timing for availability of the funds cannot be determined until the legislation has passed. Dave Unsworth indicated rumor has it that TEA-21 will not be passed until post-election and that spending will be held the same as last year. Rick indicated that the bill has been extended through June 30, 2004. Phil Sellinger indicated that Neil McFarlane from TriMet recently attended a New Starts Conference and indicated it is very important to meet with FTA sooner rather than later. Unsworth indicated that the PDC caveat could hurt the streetcar process in the long run. Rick indicated with the work

of the Streetcar coalition US wide and the reorganization of FTA, recognizing redevelopment potential in conjunction with Streetcar operations is imperative.

5. Funding Summary:

A draft summary of funds available for eastside streetcar FY 04-05 indicates the initial commitments necessary to continue the development of the streetcar, which include the conceptual planning at \$100,000, Metro alternatives analysis with cost TBD, and PSI coordination and City management at \$150,000. Engineering work is anticipated to begin by the end of 2004 pending authorization from the Federal Transit Administration through the Metro process. The Grand/MLK study is moving forward and will be completed by the end of the year. DEA is studying traffic counts, signal timing and have currently modeled to Couch and will move soon across Burnside and eventually will add streetcar to the mix.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is to be held on Wednesday, June 16, 2004, at 2:00p.m. at the Lloyd Center Tower, 825 NE Multnomah, 2nd floor (next to Café Today). A schedule of eastside steering committee meetings through the end of the year was distributed.