

DIVISION TRANSIT PROJECT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6-7:30 p.m.
PCC Southeast -- Community Hall Annex
2305 SE 82nd Ave, Portland

Present

John Carr, Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition (SEUL); Portland Clean Air
Linh Doan Jade District/APANO
Michael Harrison, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)
Sydney Mead, Division Clinton Business Association (DCBA)
Claudia Robertson, TriMet Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT)

Absent

Amy Bader, Portland Community College (PCC) Southeast
Jef Kaiser, Gresham Coalition of Neighborhoods

Welcome & Approve Notes

John Carr, CAC Chair

John Carr welcomed the committee and the notes were approved.

Public comment period

There were no public comments for this meeting.

Project and Construction Updates

Michael Kiser, Project Manager

Michael Kiser provided a project update. The project is expected to reach 100% design completion in November 2019. There are some final changes expected, at 122nd and 82nd avenues. The team has been working diligently with the FTA and passed the readiness review; financials and other documents have been submitted to the FTA. The funds for a single year grant agreement will be allocated this year; approval is expected in mid-November 2019. When the City of Portland permits are in place, private utility locations will begin, also in November. Raimore Construction will do some underground work at station areas, including getting storm and sewer utilities relocated. Major construction is expected to begin in November 2019. He said construction is expected to last approximately two years. Michael also noted there will be a final public open house in November.

Michael reviewed the project's three separate work zones (three different crews), called "headings." There is a west, central and east heading. Crews will start working on the east end of each heading and work their way west. There are three phases of construction: advanced utilities; heavy civil; finishes to stations.

Michael also reviewed pre-construction activities, including pot-holing to identify utilities, and that staff is preparing the field office at 152nd and Division.

Michael noted Raimore continues to be a good partner and has been actively speaking with people in the community, including opportunities to work on the project. Michael stated that Community Affairs staff and construction staff will be in the field ensuring that the work is done correctly and suits all users while being considerate of all stakeholders.

Building Healthy Connected Communities along the Division Transit Corridor Marty Stockton, Portland Bureau of Planning and April Bertelsen, Portland Bureau of Transportation

Marty Stockton and April Bertelsen presented on “Building Healthy Connected Communities along the Division Transit Corridor.” This project is funded by a Metro grant, and began in fall 2016. A project report came out this summer, and they’re now taking public feedback on the report. December 12 is the tentative date for the report to be presented to the City of Portland City (COP) Council; people have until December 12 to view the report and submit comments.

Marty reviewed the history of COP’s involvement with the Division Transit Project and referenced the Portland Local Action Plan, which includes four COP bureaus working to support the community. She reviewed the affordable housing projects within the Powell-Division corridor, citing 387 affordable units to be preserved or produced, exceeding the target number of affordable units. Marty explained that community organizations supported business outreach in the corridor east of 82nd Avenue. Marty stated this report has a focus of East Portland, east of 82nd Avenue. The report also details urban design concepts studied and includes key recommendations.

April stated the recommendations are about enhancing concepts outlined in the Local Action Plan, with an emphasis on East Portland. She said the report includes recommendations for adding several projects to the Transportation System Plan. April noted the East Portland funded transportation projects underway can be viewed [online on COP’s website](#). April concluded by reviewing upcoming actions, including the December 12 Adoption by resolution of the report, and recommended the Community Advisory Committee review the report.

John Carr asked if the Housing Bureau’s report on their work in East Portland was within this report, or if it was separate.

Marty stated that the Housing Bureau’s report will be separate, with an update expected in December. She said if there is a memo to share before then, she will share it with the Committee.

Sydney Mead mentioned that she works with inner Division businesses and asked if those businesses can tap into any of these project funds, or are they allocated only for outer Division?

Marty replied that she will investigate Sydney’s inquiry and will follow up with her.

Claudia Robertson suggested that the comment period for these types of projects be extended online. Marty thanked her for her feedback.

Line 2-Division Reallocation of Service Hours

Brenda Martin, TriMet

Brenda Martin discussed the Division Transit Project and bus service reallocation completed since September 2018, noting changes when Line 2 split; new frequent service with Line 73; added frequency for Line 81; 24-hour service on Lines 20 and 57; and overnight service to Portland International Airport with line 272. Brenda then reviewed upcoming frequent service changes on Line 20.

Brenda stated TriMet proposes to pre- and post-allocate hours, and asked for the Committee's feedback. She emphasized that Line 2 will continue to run frequent service, but that there could be some changes in September 2020, a year from now. She noted that some of the reallocation may occur one year after the Division Transit Project opens. Brenda reviewed the next steps, which include collecting public comments from the public and stakeholders. Outreach will begin in October as TriMet looks to make the pre-allocation of Line 2 in fall 2020.

John Carr asked why Line 87 was chosen for pre-allocation of hours.

Brenda replied that it was based on community feedback, ridership on the line has gone up, plus businesses have indicated they want later service.

Claudia Robertson asked how outreach will occur.

Brenda replied outreach will include open house events in the communities where service will be added, plus an online survey.

John Carr asked if the public had any questions for Brenda. The public did not have questions.

Bus Procurement and Station Design updates

Jesse Stemmler, Urban Design & Stations Lead

Jesse Stemmler provided updates on bus procurement and windscreen design. He reviewed the bus procurement timeline and noted TriMet's Board approval yesterday of a resolution to award the contract to Nova. Jesse advised the Committee that of the three proposals submitted, none included a viable solution for electric (bus technology), but when the technology is ready, TriMet wants to integrate them into the fleet. He stated the Nova contract needed to be negotiated, then a pilot bus would be delivered for testing tentative April to July 2022.

Claudia Robertson asked if this is the same information that would be presented at the CAT meeting next week.

Jesse confirmed that the update would be part of the presentation next week.

Jesse was asked by Claudia about his visit to Railvolution in Vancouver, Canada. Jesse said that it was a good trip and shared how the CAT's involvement and feedback was valuable during the design process.

John Carr asked why Nova was selected for the contract over other manufacturers.

Michael Kiser replied that Nova was the most responsive to the RFP and that the team was impressed with Nova's facility and quality of work. He indicated it was seen as the best vehicle for the project's needs.

John asked if Nova was part of the Buy America contract and asked for their location.

Michael confirmed that the company is part of the Buy America contract, and that they're based in New York.

Jesse then discussed station design. He noted that the team is working with PBOT to determine how to use the Island station type at 82nd and 122nd avenues. Jesse noted how the Island station type integrates with existing ROW and that the team is continuing to study this station type at these locations.

Claudia stated that she had concerns about accessibility for users with the Island station type.

Jesse stated that the team would continue to seek the Committee's feedback as the project worked toward 100% design. He noted there is a robust vetting process.

John asked Jesse to explain how the bus interacts with traffic eastbound at 82nd Avenue.

Jesse clarified that the bus pulls out of lane there, but stays in the lane elsewhere. Jesse said the Island station type will be used in both eastbound and westbound at 82nd Avenue.

Jesse then provided an update on shelter windcreens. He reviewed the windscreen design patterns and stated that the team recently received a sample, and that they're inspecting it. He said the team wants to ensure that it allows for safe sight lines. He concluded with a reminder of the designs that could appear on the windscreen glass, and that further updates would be provided.

Conduct of Construction updates

Coral Egnew, Senior Community Affairs Coordinator

Coral Egnew reviewed the project conduct of construction, which is currently being drafted with stakeholders, peer agencies and Raimore Construction. She presented the Committee with copies of the draft and said they will also receive an electronic version. She asked the group to review it and provide comments by September 30th. A final version is expected in mid-November.

Coral noted key components of the document: Coordination with other projects; defining work zones; phases of construction; construction policies; and, Community Affairs' role.

John Carr asked about crews parking during construction.

Coral noted the staging locations for each heading, including where contractors will park their vehicles to minimize parking impacts. Coral stated the phases of construction: Private utilities relocation; civil construction; amenities installation.

Coral emphasized that the Community Affairs team has a presence in the community and is working with the contractor to notify the public where the private utility impacts will occur. She stressed that her team will maintain open communication with the public about what to expect, with an emphasis on minimizing impacts.

Sydney Mead asked how local businesses will be contacted by Community Affairs.

Coral replied that the team will engage via in person contacts, mail, sharing information at meetings and posting updates soon on the project website.

Sydney asked if Coral and her team worked on other projects in addition to the Division Transit Project.

Coral replied that she and her team work on other projects, but the Division Transit Project is the priority.

Michael Harrison asked if there will be any construction impacts in South Waterfront.

Coral replied that it would be minimal, and that there would be signs placed there, at Lincoln Street and near OMSI.

John Carr asked if the conduct of construction document will be provided to businesses.

Coral replied that the document will be posted to the project website. She asked the Committee members to review the document and provide her with comments.

Sydney and John suggested the project utilize YouTube videos to communicate project construction.

Coral explained that various communications tools, including videos, were used to communicate project information.

Coral then introduced Paulina Salgado, the newest Community Affairs team member. Coral stated Paulina's work area is from 82nd to 174th avenues, and that she has a lot of experience in outreach within TriMet. She will work to inform the community about the project, keeping people informed while the project is built. Coral concluded by providing a look at her team's next steps, noting a November 14 open house event and that the next CAC meeting is November 21. She noted the possibility of having that meeting at the team's new field office.

Public comment period

There were no additional public comments.

Round Table Discussion

John Carr discussed the idea of the Committee reviewing the Building Healthy Connected Communities report individually to submit a comment as a committee, or on behalf of the groups the Committee represents.

Sydney Mead said that she would discuss that with the group she represents.

Michael Harrison stated that he supported John's suggestion to submit a comment collectively as a committee.

John agreed and suggested the Committee revisit the report next month.

Michael brought up the safety shields for bus operators noted in last month's meeting notes. He stated he wanted to know TriMet's perspective on using half or whole shields for the project's buses.

Claudia Robertson commented the need for the operators to be able to assist riders using mobility devices and the impacts of the safety shield on operators' ability to do so.

John suggested this topic be presented by TriMet at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.