

C-TRAN CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 29, 2011

The C-TRAN Citizens Advisory Committee (CCAC) meeting was held September 29, 2011, at the C-TRAN Administration Office, Vancouver, Washington.

ATTENDEES

PRESENT: Carol Bartel, Donna Brown, Joan Delzer, Debbie Hansen, Kevin Keay, Harry Kiick, Kathy Poland, Lisa Rasmussen, Leanne Sosa, Franca Sperling-Jacox, Maiesha Stovall, Judy Tiffany

ABSENT: Dawn Rhoads

STAFF PRESENT: Walt Gordon, Ronda Peck, Jim Quintana

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: Rey Cabral, Bridget Ball Cabral, Stephen Harvey, Bradley Jackman

Chair Debbie Hansen called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MEMBER LISA RASMUSSEN MOTIONED, IT WAS SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 28, 2011, MEETING.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Hansen announced that Member Franca Sperling-Jacox's second term will be expiring in October. She has served on the CCAC for two consecutive terms, four years in all.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bradley Jackman expressed his appreciation of the CCAC.

PRESENTATIONS

C-TRAN's Ballot Measure

Senior Development & Public Affairs Manager Jim Quintana presented information on the C-TRAN ballot measure that will ask the public to authorize a 0.2 percent sales tax increase (2 pennies on a ten dollar purchase) in order to preserve existing bus levels and to meet the projected growth of C-VAN, which is a federally mandated service.

The Ballot Measure Fact Piece Presentation included information on C-TRAN's financial situation and what the agency has done over the years to maintain service levels and to balance the budget.

Mr. Quintana explained that if the measure does not pass, a system-wide service reduction of approximately 35 percent will be implemented by early or mid 2013 in order to balance the budget. Mr. Quintana discussed various ways in which C-TRAN has communicated facts to the public including the ballot measure fact piece, open houses, and the C-TRAN Web site.

Members offered suggestions and comments:

- Take fact sheets to churches and apartment complexes, such as Smith Towers, that may have bulletin boards.
- How does C-TRAN's financial needs compare to other states?
- The aging population is growing and demand for C-VAN is expected to rise 224 percent over the next ten years.
- Will an increase in Washington's taxes result in more Washingtonians spending in Oregon, resulting in lost tax revenue for C-TRAN?
- Is state assistance in decreasing? Many grants require matching local funds in order to be used.
- Show the year of the bus so that the public realizes how long these vehicles are being used.
- The public has not received enough factual information to make informed decisions about the ballot measure.
- Go to schools and talk to students about using the bus and also present them with factual information concerning the ballot measure that they can take home to their parents.

Mr. Quintana thanked members for their input and reminded them of the legal limitations placed on public agencies their employees and resources with regard to campaigns and candidates.

MEMBER COMMENTS

- Discussed ride times and long walks between stops. Mr. Quintana will follow up.
- Garbage cans attract yellow jackets. Could anything be done?
- Trash bins and some stops hinder chairs and turning area.
- Trash doesn't always get emptied on 4th Plain stops.
- Often riders must wait an hour for their bus with no place to sit.
- There are no covered shelters or seats on route #72.
- Thanks to Mr. Quintana for a great ballot measure presentation.
- School kids are hassling drivers on route #80 and using foul language.

- Discussion of what drivers can ask riders about their service dogs. Is a leash required on the dog? Passenger Service Manager Gordon stated that the dog must be “under control.”
- Autostop announcements have been great.
- A “no” function on the NextRide program has been problematic. At this time, the system may not be able to handle the high call volume it has been experiencing, which may be affecting some of its menu functions. Mr. Gordon asked the member to e-mail him the details.
- NextRide works well if you know the stops. Otherwise, it can be confusing. Customer Service Representatives have a list of all numbers–suggestion to get the list and programming into telephone.
- Salmon Creek Park & Ride looks great.
- Why were stops moved so bus stops twice? For safety reasons.
- What is being done with property from the old Salmon Creek Park & Ride?
- Could members be notified of the results of the ballot measure before the media?

Ms. Rasmussen’s term will be up in October. She was asked whether she wants to run for a second term. She replied, “yes, definitely.”

NEXT MEETING: October 27 (public participation will be limited.)

- 4th Plain BRT
- Retreat

Ms. Rasmussen asked if the BRT piece could be deferred to another meeting. Mr. Quintana explained that CCAC’s input is needed before BRT is presented to the Board in November.

MEMBER LISA RASMUSSEN MOTIONED, IT WAS SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED TO CANCEL THE NOVEMBER MEETING DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

ADJOURNMENT

MEMBER JOAN DELZER MOTIONED, IT WAS SECONDED, AND THE MOTION CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cheryl Boutwell