

Friends of Portland Streetcar

Thursday, September 19, 2024 @ 3:30 pm

Capital One Café Portland

Members present:

- Stephen Weber, Chair
- David Brandt
- Carolyn Brock

State of the fleet:

- Cars 032 and 033 are expected to enter revenue service later this month. PSI is waiting on a software update from IFE to fix an issue with the doors closing too hard. 031 may enter service late October; waiting on some documentation from Brookville.
- Car 015 will be scrapped as efforts to auction it off were not successful.
- RFPs are currently in progress for body and paintwork for the fleet. It is hoped that 024 may be able to be fixed as part of this effort, but PSI is primarily looking for a new vendor as the current one has retired.
- Dan is in talks with Intersection to fix the paint work on car 009, the car that previously had a full car wrap for OHSU.
- RFP for the 040-series cars is expected to be posted in November. PSI started a review of technical specifications late last month.
- The original fleet is still planned to receive security camera and digital signage retrofits. Dan hopes this process will begin in November, but the cars from Brookville do need to enter revenue service to support the downtime the other cars will experience.

System performance:

- May had the best ridership since 2019. Dan was not aware of anything out of the ordinary to cause the increase, but ridership numbers continue to be up from 2023. Stephen forecasts average weekday ridership to return to over 10,000 with PSU starting back up.
- On-time performance on the B-Loop is continuing to struggle due to operating issues.

Station amenities:

- All of the ConnectPoint LED screens that have not suffered damage now have a vandal guard on them. Those that have been damaged will be replaced as soon as possible. Replacements have arrived and are awaiting installation. Once damaged signs have been replaced, the remaining NextBus screens will receive the upgrade.

Montgomery Park extension:

- BPS has moved forward with recommending an amended plan to city council. A hearing is set for Thursday, October 24th at 2 pm. Public testimony will be available, and a final vote is expected later in the fall.
- Project development will begin with the FTA once the land piece is in place and funded. Dan expects things to get moving in January.

Miscellaneous updates:

- PSI is hiring more Rider Ambassadors and Customer Service Representatives. Application instructions are available on the Streetcar website.
- New maps and ride guide pamphlets featuring car 031 are starting to be put on trains. The new guides do remove referencing paying with cash onboard.
- Stephen raised a concern to Dan about riders not understanding doors have to close for the ramp to deploy. Dan will talk to the safety team about installing new signage.

- The City of Portland has soft launched its new structure ahead of the new charter for 2025. Dan said things have gone well so far with no major changes or impact to Streetcar.
- David asked if there are still plans to extend the MAX to Tigard. Stephen gave an overview of TriMet's Forward Together 2.0 plan, which would see the Tigard extension become part of a yellow line extension to Vancouver, WA.
- See attachment 09192024_attachment_forward_together_2.pdf