

Friends of Portland Streetcar

Regular Meeting on June 20, 2025 at 3:30 pm

Capital One Cafe

625 SW Broadway

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Stephen Weber.

Members present:

- Stephen Weber, Chair
- Carolyn Brock

Good of the order

Discussion of Portland Streetcar contract renewal/RFP

Stephen provided an overview of the RFP process for providing operations support for Portland Streetcar. PSI and TriMet were the only two bidders to submit a proposal to the city. The city was expected to have awarded a contract by this week, but no announcement has been seen yet. Stephen will provide an update over email when the contract is awarded.

Feedback on PSU Urban Center disruption

Stephen collected feedback on communications around the closure of the PSU Urban Center platform for two weeks to rebuild it. There was a general agreement that most passengers were unaware the disruption was going to take place. Stephen noted plans were finalized the day before the disruption.

There was an additional agreement that while intentions were good to restart service in the evening, having service restart at various times created too much confusion, and shuttles should have just replaced service for the entire day.

Feedback on the Brookville fleet

Stephen collected feedback on the Brookville fleet (the 030-series cars).

Discussion points included:

- The average passenger - and especially the infrequent rider - don't appear to notice an immediate difference with the new cars.
- Feels are mixed on the seats facing the doors.
- Both passengers and operators would like to have a crew (front) door again.
- The new signs are a welcome addition - when they work.
- The failure rate for the ramp is still too high.
- The timing of some audio announcements requires further adjustments, but they have improved greatly over the 90 days of revenue service.
- Announcements and signage is not consistent across the three cars.

- Stephen believes the cars are still having too many issues for 90 days of revenue service and almost two years of burn-in testing.
- Stephen additionally believes the construction quality on the cars is overall poor. All three have manufacturing defects.
- Having only three cars with an entirely new design may help in the long run to prepare passengers for when the 040-series cars are delivered. The Brookville cars are the first new design for Streetcar in 24 years of operation.

Discussion of trending performance data

Stephen noted ridership for the calendar year is trending upwards, however May had a substantial drop in ridership, which is likely because of the PSU construction project.

Discussion of impact to Willamette Shore Trolley if NS Line is extended to John's Landing

This item was tabled for discussion at a later time.

Mid-year update brainstorm

The item will be moved to discussion over email.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm by Stephen Weber.