

SW Corridor Light Rail Project Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

**Thursday, January 9, 2020, 5:30-7 p.m.
Tigard Public Works Auditorium
8777 SW Burnham St., Tigard**

Meeting Summary

Present

Rachael Duke – Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH)
Calista Fitzgerald – Designer, Former Tigard Planning Commission Chair
Ethan Frelly – Tigard Chamber of Commerce, business owner
Bill Garyfallou – Property/business owner
Michael Harrison – Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU)
Chad Hastings – CenterCal Properties Bridgeport Village
Bob Ludlum – Washington County resident, Veteran’s advocate
Melissa Moncada – Engineer, West Portland Park Neighborhood
Julia Michel – Portland State University (PSU)
Rebecca Ocken – Portland Community College (PCC) Sylvania Campus
Elise Shearer – Tigard Transportation Advisory Committee, St. Anthony Parish
Ramtin Rahmani – Tigard resident, bicycle commuter to OHSU
Lindsey Wise – Tigard Transportation Committee, transit commuter to PSU

Not Present

Chris Carpenter – Oregon & Southern Idaho District Council of Laborers
Debra Dunn – Synergy Resources Group Business Consultant
Angela Handran – Tualatin renter Transit commuter to PSU
Eric Sporre – PacTrust

Welcome & Introduction

Brandy Steffen, JLA

Brandy reviewed the agenda. She asked the public in attendance to address comments/questions during the public comment period or speak with TriMet staff. The CAC introduced themselves. TriMet staff present were Scott Robertson (SW Corridor Design Manager), Libby Winter, Amparo Agosto, and Josh Mahar (Community Affairs Representatives).

Public Comment

One member of the public addressed the committee.

Neil Simon from SW Portland thanked the group for the work they’re doing and offered his support for the light rail project.

Southwest Equitable Development Strategy Overview

Brian Harper, Metro

Brian gave a brief history of the project including project opportunities and potential impact. He presented on the Equitable Development Strategy and project goals (see [presentation slides](#) for more information). Key points were:

- The importance of diversity and racial equity in project design and gathering feedback
- A critical focus will be displacement and affordable housing considerations
- Committee formation and involvement is central to project success
- Project goals inform all decision-making
- Metro distributed business and workforce awards with MercyCorps NW, Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), and Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)
- Metro distributed equity and housing awards with Home Forward, Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH), Proud Ground, and Unite Oregon
- The project's success revolves around good partnerships

Bob asked how the available land could be used for affordable housing.

Josh responded that Project Partners are working on a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) analysis of the corridor that would include identifying the best opportunities for affordable housing. They are open to the idea of other partnerships.

Scott commented they will have more information in early-to-mid February from the TOD study which will inform the final Conceptual Design Report (scheduled to be issued in June). Project partners have made a pledge of 950 units of affordable housing in the corridor per a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Brian added that there's an agreement in place to prioritize using acquired parcel remnants for affordable housing in the future. TriMet is a good partner and has implemented similar policies for the Yellow Line.

Bob asked how the Latino community is being involved.

Brian responded Unite Oregon has been a strong partner with the Southwest Equitable Development Strategy (SWEDS) project, specifically with the Latino community, in helping them get authentic feedback.

Elise mentioned the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as a group for consideration.

Brian responded they haven't talked with them yet but will look into it.

Bill commented that 19th/17th and Barbur is his area of focus, and the homeless community uses public areas. Often there is garbage and drug use, which is a public health issue. Is there a public health support system that can help with people who are homeless?

Brian answered he understands that it's been an issue for several years. While this project doesn't address homelessness specifically, public health agencies are involved, and it will in some way have to be addressed.

Rachael commented she has a handout regarding the implementation of the equitable housing strategy (the SW Equitable Housing plan). She suggested to TriMet to have someone from the cities of Tigard and Portland come talk about how the plan is going, to see what's going to be happening and get an idea of its momentum.

Brian responded this has been scheduled for January 23rd with the SWEDS oversight committee representatives from the SW Equity Coalition will come present and he can share the information.

Preliminary Design & Public Engagement Look Ahead

Josh Mahar, TriMet

Josh Mahar discussed the Conceptual Design Report (a draft to be published in early February) as well as TriMet's engagement strategy for gathering feedback (to be launched in early February). He discussed that there are five open houses scheduled, along with an online option for offering input. Presentations are scheduled with groups from Tigard, Portland, Tualatin, TriMet, and Washington County.

Ramtin commented about the length of the open houses. The online open house seems too short, can it be longer? He suggested keeping it open through the end of March so it's more accessible for people's schedules.

Josh explained this process is more informing than consulting. The conversation won't be as in-depth as previous outreach activities because it's more of a temperature check with the community. To get the feedback report by April means the timeline will be tight. He will push it back as far as he can, while ensuring they can also incorporate the feedback into the report.

Bill asked how the park & ride was going to be configured at Bridgeport.

Josh responded the Conceptual Design Report will lay that out: where the parking will be, how many spaces, and so on. TriMet will use the design to gather more feedback from the committee and other members of the public.

Rachael asked how they were going to get feedback from underrepresented groups.

Josh responded it's been a challenge to do this in the past, and how often they don't get good engagement even when materials are translated. To help solve this, they've partnered with Centro Cultural in the SW Corridor to connect with Latinx, Arabic, Somali, and Vietnamese communities.

Ethan asked if any Native American communities or representatives were being involved in any way because the Census suggests this population has been growing in the area, particularly in Tigard.

Josh responded that Native American communities haven't been very active with this project to his knowledge, but he will investigate it.

Bob commented Native American communities are involved with the land use part of it, but he's not sure how much involvement there is beyond that.

Brandy summarized the next agenda items for February and March. This group will dive into some more details at the next meeting. In April, TriMet will give more information about what they're hearing from their community engagement activities, and any concerns that have been

raised. The Conceptual Design Report will be big, so part of what the group will do is to help prioritize what items to dive into and discuss further.

Calista asked if the report will be available prior to the meeting for the group to review.

Josh responded he hopes so, but there won't be a lot of time. They will get it to the group as soon as possible.

Elise asked if there would be translators available for people speaking other languages at the open houses.

Calista commented that there is a large Somali population in this area and should be given the opportunity to give us feedback.

Josh responded they weren't planning on having translators at the open house events. They are underused because materials aren't being promoted in those languages. They have partnered with Centro Cultural so they can go directly to groups and have a more focused conversation to get better feedback. However, people can request translators for the events if they would like through TriMet's normal request process.

Elise commented she's concerned that the activities happening with Centro Cultural are in March, which is very close to the end of the online open house.

Josh responded they will try and push back the online comment period.

Melissa asked if childcare will be offered at these events.

Josh responded that is something they will consider as they finalize logistics of the open houses.

Amparo responded that Centro Cultural will be working with groups that are already serving in these communities, know the places they gather and will be working with them directly. Jointly, they'll be able to provide items that make it easier for people to attend and give feedback. TriMet will report back to the CAC on the logistics and activities, once TriMet has more information.

Roundtable Discussion

Brandy Steffen, JLA

TriMet would like to know any specific needs members may have when engaging their groups, or anything else they think would be useful.

Michael asked about the Active Transportation Summit and mentioned The Bicycle Transportation Alliance is now called Street Trust.

Josh responded TriMet would attend the Active Transportation Summit which will be a day workshop or a session that will look at the corridor in March. It will be attended by local activists and transportation planners and is organized by The Street Trust.

Bill commented he's considering businesses and property owners who are tied into leases. They need to have information and methods for contacting officials on mitigating right of way or displacement issues. As a property owner, he wants to know how you're going to affect his property. Homelessness affects property owners and is a public health issue.

Lindsey asked if TriMet would look into whether there were any pedestrian advocacy groups.

Ramtin commented that Bike Loud PDX or Bike Portland would be good groups to involve (on the earlier side would be better so they have time to attend), along with Street Trust. He said it would be good to see what's in the EIS and the CDR and to have those documents to look at for each presentation, specifically regarding impacts to individual properties

Julia commented PSU is interested to hear about how the project will affect their student network and the area in general. She would like to know more about how it will impact student travel and will think about any specific student groups that could want more information about the project.

Rebecca commented that PCC students will be interested to know more about what will happen to their connections and multimodal options, as they will be going to/from OHSU and PSU.

Calista mentioned she only saw government entities listed in Tigard which will affect the overall reach. It's missing the public piece. The Portland list has other neighborhood meetings but there's none in Tigard.

Rachael mentioned the Getting There Together Coalition as a good group to include, along with housing providers in the area, to discuss who's developing affordable housing. She offered to help organize a meeting.

Melissa commented she would want to hear more about traffic studies and the design. She agrees the Somali population should be integrated. She would also like to learn more about the affordable housing impact. She mentioned that area PTAs would be good to include in TriMet's outreach activities.

Elise commented that the Tigard City Council isn't on the list.

Josh responded they haven't scheduled all the meetings yet.

Elise mentioned the climbing gym would be a good place to go because of good turnout during previous phases. The Vietnamese community at St. Anthony's will need representation, and the Bridgeport Coalition would be interested in station design. The Tigard Chamber of Commerce should be involved too.

Bob commented there should be information for handicap people and how to connect the last mile to the light rail. How does TriMet plan to make it accessible? He would like to see more notification to the public on voting for the project and how they can get involved.

Ethan reminded the CAC that he reports to the Tigard Chamber of Commerce Board and is interested in traffic and public safety, such as street lighting impacts and related issues.

Chad asked how these new facilities will work and affect local traffic. He would also like to know how bus routes will interact with the light rail in communities. A blurb on that would be helpful.

Brandy thanked the group and reminded them the next meeting will be Thursday, February 6 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at the same location.