



## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Portland Peninsula Route Redevelopment Task Force

Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 1-3pm

Portland Public Library

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Belinda Ray, METRO Board President and Task Force Chair, called the meeting to order.

#### 2. Welcome and Introductions

The following members were present:

- Belinda Ray, METRO Board President, Task Force Chair
- Tyler Plante, Portland Housing Authority
- Kerrie Keller, United Way of Greater Portland
- Art Handman, South Portland Bus Service
- Greg Jordan, METRO
- Patricia Quinn, Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA)
- Denise Beck, METRO
- Zoe Miller, GPCOG – project consultant
- Rick Harbison, GPCOG – project consultant
- Quincy Hentzel, Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Amy Geren, Portland Downtown
- Jeff Levine, City of Portland

#### 3. Updates from METRO

Greg Jordan, METRO Director, invited Patricia Quinn, from the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA), to update the Task Force on several NNEPRA initiatives that may influence the direction of the Peninsula Planning project. Patricia updated the group on the following:

- NNEPRA is exploring a possible relocation of the Amtrak Downeaster's stop from the Portland Transportation Center (PTC) to a new site near Mercy Hospital on the Peninsula. The current stop at the PTC is not efficient for the train, or close to downtown which is inconvenient for riders. Commissioner Van Note has formed a task force to evaluate what it would mean if the Downeaster stop moved to this location.
- NNEPRA is involved in a study exploring the potential for rail connections to the Rock Row development in Westbrook along the Mountain Division line.
- NNEPRA is having preliminary discussions about adding a Downeaster stop at the West Falmouth Shopping Center.

#### 4. How Was Your Ride?

Denise Beck, METRO, invited Task force members to report out on what they experienced while riding Route 1 and/or Route 8 prior to the meeting.

Many Task Force members who rode Route 8 observed it was fairly busy, with many seniors and people with disabilities onboard who brought shopping carts and wheelchairs. Popular stops seemed to be Maine Med, Congress St., Casco Bay Lines, and Hannaford. Many remarked that Route 8 is a circuitous



route, seems overly complicated and intimidating, is limited by being one-way, and is slow (it is sometimes more convenient, if you're able-bodied, to just walk or bike).

Those who rode Route 1 liked that it is direct. The one-way loops at either end can be a downside (you can sometimes get dragged to locations you don't want to go). Several members mentioned Route 1 is a very efficient way to get from the Portland Transportation Center to downtown (though not as efficient getting from the downtown to the PTC due to the one-way loop).

## 5. Discussion and Sign-Ups – Engagement Calendar

Zoe Miller, GPCOG, reviewed the draft engagement calendar with the group. For most locations the project team will have a table set up with information about the project, surveys, and other interactive activities. Task Force members volunteered to sign up for various days. Other ideas for places to set up were bus stop pop ups at the Portland Transportation Center, Hannaford, and Maine Med.

## 6. Review and Feedback: Engagement Survey(s)

Rick Harbison, GPCOG, updated the group on the project team's survey strategy. Rider surveys are being developed to generate input specifically from people who are familiar with riding Route 1 and/or Route 8. Another survey will be developed using the survey tool MetroQuest to cater to both riders and non-riders. This survey will have more general questions about how people get around the Peninsula, their travel preferences, what would inspire them to take public transit, etc. Rick reviewed the latest draft of the rider survey with the group. Task Force members provided specific feedback and identified several questions that could be eliminated to keep the survey as concise and user friendly as possible.

### Name This Project!

Task Force members brainstormed, and voted on, the following project names.

- Metro Portland Peninsolution (6)
- Circulator Reboot (4)
- Peninsula Loop Reboot (4)
- Downtown Portland Circulator Project (2)
- Ride Downtown (1)
- Pulse Beat (1)
- Heart of Portland (1)
- Rework the Ride (1)
- Let's go Metro (1)
- Metro Works
- Metro Core
- Commuter Ride
- Peninsula Route
- Ride Smarter
- Short Line
- Quick Line
- City Ride
- METRO Route Fix
- Peninsula Bus Study
- Reimagine Metro
- Metro Connect
- Metro Connector
- The Loop
- Portland Perimeter
- Intown Round
- Peninsula Halo
- The Wheels
- The Swirl
- Peninsula Redux
- METRO Circulator 2.0
- Downtown Portland Route ReDo

## 7. Next Steps

- The next meeting of this group will be in September.
- Zoe will schedule a standing meeting date.
- Task Members are encouraged to sign up for volunteer events.
- The project team will review the list above and develop a project name.



Peninsula Route Redevelopment Public Outreach | Phase I: July-Sept 2019

**DRAFT 6.13.19**

| MONTH | DATE       | EVENT                                    | LOCATION                     | TIME      | AUDIENCE  | STAFFING |
|-------|------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|---|----------|
| July  | Sat, 7/20  | Farmers Market                           | Deering Oaks                 | 7am-noon  | Portland residents; visitors                                |          |
| July  | Wed, 7/24  | Farmers Market                           | Monument Square              | 8am-1pm   | Portland residents; visitors                                |          |
| July  | Sat, 7/27  | Festival of Nations                      | Deering Oaks                 | 11am-8pm  | Portland residents; underrepresented communities ; visitors |          |
| July  | TBD        | Summer Meal Site (or other event)        | Kennedy Park                 | 11am-1pm  | Underrepresented communities                                |          |
| July  | TBD        | Summer Meal Site (or other event)        | Parkside Neighborhood Center | 11am-1pm  | Underrepresented communities                                |          |
| Aug   | Fri, 8/2   | First Friday Art Walk                    | Congress Square              | 4-7pm     | Portland residents; visitors                                |          |
| Aug   | Thur, 8/8  | Sea Dogs game                            | Sidewalk outside ballpark    | 11am-1pm  | Portland residents; visitors                                |          |
| Aug   | Wed, 8/14  | West End Neighborhood Association Picnic | Reiche Community Center      | 6:30-8pm  | Portland residents; underrepresented communities            |          |
| Aug   | TBD        | Pop-Up                                   | CBL Ferry Terminal           | TBD       | Island residents; visitors                                  |          |
| Sept  | Fri, 9/6   | First Friday Art Walk                    | Congress Square              | 4-7pm     | Portland residents; visitors                                |          |
| Sept  | Sat, 9/15  | Portland Trails' Trail to Ale            | East End                     | 9am-1pm   | Portland residents; visitors                                |          |
| Sept  | TBD        | High School Outreach                     | TBD                          | TBD       | Portland residents; underrepresented communities            |          |
| Sept  | Thurs, TBD | Public Meeting                           | Portland Public Library      | 6-8pm     | Portland residents  |          |
| Sept  | Sat, TBD   | Public Meeting                           | Portland Public Library      | 10am-noon | Portland residents  |          |

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