

## **9-17-15 TRANSIT EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

### Committee members in attendance

Andre Baugh  
Scotty Ellis  
Roberta Hunte (Co-chair)  
Judi Martin (Co-chair)  
Ana Meza  
Nicole Phillips

### Staff in attendance

Shelley Devine, General Counsel  
Martin Gonzalez, Manager of Multicultural Programs  
Monika Johnson, Diversity & Transit Equity Representative  
Mike Leloff, Commander Transit Police Division  
Shelly Lomax, Exec Dir of Transportation  
Ryan McBee, Diversity & Transit Equity Intern  
Bob Nelson, Deputy General Manager  
Harry Saporta, Exec Dir of Safety & Security  
Jake Warr, Diversity & Transit Equity Policy Advisor

Call to Order: Roberta called the meeting to order at 4.30 PM

Icebreaker: people introduced themselves

### Updates

- eFare: consultants have been working with CBO's, (OPAL, Center for Intercultural Organizing, Black Parent Initiative, NAYA, APANO, and Latino Network
- Meeting with CBO's to give them more information and education about EFARE, and discuss how we can format focus groups with CBO members, to get feedback
- Feedback will be used for the report that will be presented to the board
- eFare is now been branded as the "Hop Fast Pass" (details still being worked out)
- Next Month: more information, more updates, specifically about the analysis of the eFare program
- Andre mentioned that news media may be raising "good questions and improbable answers" he suggests that Trimet get facts out fast, Jake said messaging is key to the roll out of eFare

Co-chair meeting with Neil:

- Roberta and Judy discussed eFare with Neil; Neil wanted to know who TRIMET should be talking to, who should be at the table, and that there will be focus groups, trial runs of eFare
- How to make EFARE more accessible? Have guidance about cultural competency throughout the agency?
- DBE: Neil and co-chairs hope to have apprenticeship program continue, but TRIMET is not building anything right now, so the question is; how do we continue DBE success (growing the program) and working with Metro and other organizations to create an institutional shift in sustaining the goals TRIMET aspires to

- Bob said that through the building TRIMET has done recently, great relationships have been formed, and would like to see this work continued into the future, "When there's work that can be done, to the extent possible we can attract small businesses."
- TEAC Not a standing Committee: Co-chairs noted that this committee not a standing committee, just an advisory one, but Neil noted that advisory might be better, due to standing committee restrictions, working on the process to make sure TEAC has longevity
- Director of Diversity & Transit Equity Hiring Process: down to three candidates, co-chairs expressed sentiment of why wasn't TEAC included (on the panel) Neil said that TEAC questions were submitted, and said that hiring happened during the summer, so TEAC was out of session, CO-CHAIRS understood this
- Roberta and Judy said that Jake will be included as part of the final panel. Interviews will occur in mid-October
- New Members: need to do community outreach and find new additions, suggested to Neil about allowing TEAC local control of adding new members
- Board Liaison: TEAC needs one, Roberta said there's a couple of board members expressing interest in this area, co-chairs felt liaison and TEAC members should speak at board meetings
- Neil thinks board liaison will be in place by the October meeting
- Work ahead: EFARE, low-income-fare, fare-enforcement, and if TEAC subcommittees want to be created to work with staff, on these topics, Neil welcomes this idea

\*Task for TEAC: think about what you would like to accomplish during the next year?

#### Fare enforcement and TRIMET

- Shelly Lomax: bus and field operator, Shelley Devine: general counsel, Bob Nelson deputy general manager, Harry Sapporta executive director for safety and security, Mike Leloff, commander of the transit police
- DISCUSSION: Jake explained he met with TRIMET work group, and Bob presented the findings
- Background: board has begun issuing concerns about fare enforcement practices, (excessive force on people of color. This is a problem, and needs to be addressed. How does TriMet handle fare enforcement? How do you strike the balance between *fare* enforcement and good customer service?
- Exhibit some levels of mercy? Bob said that through enforcing fares, presence on the system makes sure people don't act out, some customers may not have fare for variety of reasons and how do we think about that?
- Altercation's don't happen every day, but when they do happen, sometimes yields perception of profiling. As a result, TriMet established a work group to address this issue, the work group was created so as to look at data and help TRIMET zero in on behaviors
- Address behaviors, fare just an indication of generally good ridership, need to train officers and operators more, work towards best practices on how to deescalate a situation, exercising of judgment is given to the officers
- Shelly Lomax asked how can fare enforcers have more enriched conversations?
- Nicole shared stories about TriMet transit police interactions
- Roberta noted that she has seen a positive change of attitude with fare enforcement officers, but feels that when seeing officers with dogs, situation becomes intense and

frightening

- Anna mentioned that fare enforcement officer reporting should be publicized, and that if an individual wished for a report an officer's process should be publicized
- COMMANDER: when fare inspector and officer together, decreases profiling, trying to find level of accountability for riders and reduce criminal elements of not having fare
- Harry noted that dogs are for terrorism purposes, as part of a global effort, they are not for searching for drugs, but offering safety for riders
- COMMANDER: fare inspectors and fare enforcement officers very experienced
- Andre noted that youth riders are TRIMET's future, don't profile them and turn them into car users
- Commander: if arresting isn't working, he said police try to get individuals help, for behavioral health, understand that excluding them isn't the answer
- EFARE and enforcement: how will this work? Harry said that boarding transit will have a device that will tell you if ticket is valid, could have someone standing there as people tap card
- Harry said that fare system used to check fares is done in several cities, like Seattle, charlotte, San Jose, ETC, proof of payment
- Roberta asked the room to give a comment or question to the group about the discussion we just had
  
- What's next? how can TEAC move forward with the conversation?
- Scotty: hoped to talk about implications of arrests or citations
- Anna: conversation is good, need to have more time to discuss this topic
- Andre: how will EFARE work
- Harry: like to continue the dialogue, with conversation with Mike to look at deployment strategies
- Bob: have to continue the dialogue, still have to get to a lot of substance and make substantive approaches, need TEAC to help in this effort
- Jake: being on work group, and having attended ride along with transit police officer, there are differences with riders, who they run in to (inspector or officer) so interested in how we can explore this approach, that TEAC could help with talking about difference in experiences and outcomes
- Nicole: interact like you are interacting with human beings, and that inspectors and police are human themselves, systems and procedures that encourage mutual respect
- Shelley D: respect all around the table, and a great exchanging of ideas
- Shelly L: very open and hoping to have perspective and input, enrich quality of conversations
- Mike: make himself available, offered the opportunity to do ride alongs
- Judy: appreciate we had this discussion
- Roberta: excited to have more conversations

\*NEXT STEP: how can TEAC interact more, such as community forums, anecdotal stories

#### Public comment

Martin: staff of TRIMET shouldn't think its just perception, but that this situation is a reality, it is about building relations

### More Members

- We need more members, and work on member expectations
- Andre asked if TEAC needs membership geographically?
- Jake said lacking in Clackamas and Washington Counties
- Roberta said TEAC should have a desire to engage elders, and honored citizens
- Currently, there are at least four open seats on TEAC

\*Homework for TEAC: generate lists of potential members, invite them to meetings, and have this item be at the top of the agenda for next month

AJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6.30 PM