

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee

General Committee Meeting #27

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 18th, 2022

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

a. **Zoom Meeting Protocols**

- i. Facilitator Richard France called the meeting to order. Facilitator Dryjanski announced Spanish and American Sign Language interpretation services would be available during the meeting.

b. **Agenda**

- i. Facilitator France reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

c. **Roll Call**

Present: Andrea Urmanita, Ashley Ajayi, Darryl Goodus, Florence Annang, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jose Raigoza, Maricela de Rivera, Chauncey Smith, Constance Strickland, Mohammad Tajsar, Esteban Gallardo, Ma'ayan Dembo, Sabrina Howard, Scarlett de Leon, Clarence Davis, Charles Hammerstein

Absent: Raul Gomez, Jessica Kellogg, Glenda Murrell

d. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for 05/04/22**

- i. Committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes for the May 4th, 2022, meeting.
- ii. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

II. General Public Comment

The facilitators opened public comment. No public comments were provided.

III. Discussion

Recommendations on the Public Safety Strategic Framework

Committee members discussed and voted to approve their recommendations for the Public Safety Strategic Framework.

a. **Recommendations summary**

- i. Member Smith provided an overview for the recommendations. He recommended Metro adopt policies that center equity and public safety by implementing policies that address homelessness and focus on alternatives to law enforcement. He also reviewed the negative consequences of predictive policing programs, as they use data that is inherently biased.

- ii. Metro staff reminded members that the Public Safety Strategic Framework is not a predictive policing program.

b. Discussion

- i. Member de Rivera thanked Member Smith for his comments and added that many of the solutions being proposed in the Public Safety Strategic Framework do not address the root causes of crime and violence on the Metro transit system.

c. Public comments

- i. Commentor asked what the committee is doing to support the police and Sheriff's deputies' continual presence to keep bus operators safe.
 - 1. Metro staff responded that they are currently in a blackout period and cannot discuss the contracts, but Metro currently has an RFP out for both the policing contracts and the pilot transit ambassador program.

d. Proposal

- i. Facilitator France put forward the proposal to approve the recommendations attached in the agenda

e. Voting Results

- i. Yes: 14, No: 0, Abstain: 0
- ii. The recommendations were approved unanimously

Look Ahead to Place-Based Implementation Strategy & Public Safety Analytics Policy

Committee members discussed the Metro initiatives and committee-generated topics that PSAC must give feedback on during the month of June 2022.

- a. Context setting:** Facilitator Dryjanski had members review [the new Metro board motion](#) related to data used in a public safety context and a draft timeline for PSAC's action items during June. The goal for the discussion was to determine which items were highest priority for the committee.

b. Comments on PSAC's timeline and priorities

- i. **Timeline:** Member Davis indicated that the process feels rushed and urged Metro to extend the term of PSAC members.
- ii. **PSAC's Future:** Member Smith asked if Metro is planning to dissolve PSAC after June and highlighted that these various items still require meaningful investigation and the proper time to do so.
 - 1. Metro staff responded that they do not have additional information regarding PSAC's timeline but shared that an independent consultant is currently drafting a report to evaluate PSAC's work over the past year.
 - 2. Members Annang and de Rivera shared that it is difficult to weigh in on how to prioritize these items without an idea of PSAC's timeline.
 - 3. Member Tajsar asked if Metro leadership would like to continue with PSAC,

- independent of the consultant's report.
- a. Metro staff responded that there has been no decision made yet and are waiting for the report from the independent consultant.
- iii. **“Big Picture” Recommendations:** Member Dembo shared she would like to see a session dedicated to the brainstorming activity, where PSAC would discuss what other public safety options Metro should explore.
1. Member Smith commented that he would like to continue with the established process, not exclusively using Mentimeter to collect members' opinions.
 - a. Facilitator Dryjanski indicated the committee would use Mentimeter as an interactive tool but still come out with a written recommendations document.
 2. Member Smith also recommended that this topic be first discussed in the two ad hoc committees prior to coming to the General Committee.
 - a. Members Davis and Tajsar shared support for Smith's suggestion.
- iv. **Proposal for the “Big Picture” Recommendations:** Facilitator Dryjanski proposed holding a working group session outside of the general meeting time and creating a survey for members who may not be able to attend.
- v. **Community engagement recommendations:** Member Tajsar asked for more information on this set of recommendations and if there was an alternative process being proposed.
1. Facilitator Dryjanski clarified that the community engagement recommendations are not mandated by any Metro Board motion; the facilitation team was responding to committee member requests for recommendations on this topic.
 2. Member Tajsar shared that he supports continuing with the process and producing a written document.
 3. Member Urmanita shared that the community engagement ad hoc committee had not met for a few months and suggested the ad hoc committee provides a summary of the state of their work, rather than formal recommendations.
 - a. Member Strickland echoed Urmanita on the difficulty of the process and supported her suggestion for how the committee proceeds.
- vi. **Public Safety Analytics policy timeline:** Metro staff shared that the motion requires them to report back to the Board in August, therefore they need to have their Board report ready in July. This is one of the factors driving PSAC's timeline.
1. Member Davis shared that he is not in support of data being used for predictive policing programs but understands its use for the post-hoc evaluation of programs.
 2. Member Goodus shared that going through a rushed process does not seem

right and asked for clarification on what “robust” community engagement looked like for Metro staff.

- a. Metro staff replied that they only have until August but want to include the Office of Equity and Race for review of the policy.
- b. Member Smith commented that a rushed process could silence community voices due to the timeline.

b. Next steps:

- i. The facilitation team will update the schedule to reflect the following priorities:
 1. Integrating the brainstorm/“big picture” discussion into the General Committee schedule and increasing the time allocated during these meetings.
 2. Adding working group sessions and a survey for the “big picture” recommendations.
 3. Discuss with the Community Engagement ad hoc committee how to wrap up their unfinished recommendations.
 4. Work with Metro staff to see how to engage with PSAC on the Public Safety Analytics policy before June.

IV. General Public Comment

The facilitation team took public comment from meeting participants.

- a. Commentor shared that their negative experience with homeless riders and they system’s safety.
- b. Commentor shared their experience as a transgender rider on the Metro system.
- c. Commentor expressed their concern for safety on the system and the current sanitary conditions of Metro vehicles.
- d. Commentor on spoke about their feeling unsafe on Metro transit and negative experiences with unhoused riders.
- e. Commentor indicated they were a bus operator and expressed a desire for law enforcement to be kept on the system.

V. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

VI. Next Steps

- a. The committee will reconvene on 06/01/22.