

Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Meeting #8 MINUTES

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 | 5:00-6:30pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Zoom Meeting Protocols

Facilitator Thomson Dryjanski called the meeting to order. Noted that Spanish and American Sign Language interpreter services would be available throughout the meeting. Additionally, he instructed committee members that all comments must be use the “all participants and panelists” function so they are visible to all attendees.

B. Roll Call

Present: Ashley Ajayi, Andrea Urmanita, Carrie Madden, Chauncey Smith, Constance Strickland, Darryl Goodus, Esteban Garcia, Fabian Gallardo, Florence Annang, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jessica Kellogg, Jose Raigoza, Ma’ayan Dembo, Maricela De Rivera, Mohammad Tajsar, Ron Rodney, Scarlett de Leon

Absent: Charles Hammerstein, Clarence Davis, Mechell Graham, Raul Gomez, Dr. Sabrina Howard

C. Approval of 07/07 meeting minutes

A vote was taken to approve the meeting minutes for the July 07, 2021 meeting.

Ayes: 13

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 1

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. The following comments were shared:

A. Commentor agrees with “Metro as a Sanctuary” report, called for PSAC Committee to not renew the policing contract, continue fareless transit, and called for Transit Ambassador positions to be good-paying union jobs.

1. They also noted that the \$800 million policing contract budget is about equal to the amount of fares collected pre-pandemic and that 70% of Metro riders are extremely low-income relative to the area median income.

B. Commentor is a frequent subway rider who notices a lot of trash. They would like to see more done to sanitize seats and surfaces. They noted that trash may stop some people from riding the trains because of their perceived filth.

C. Commentor is a member of the Alliance for Community Transit LA (ACT-LA). They are concerned that PSAC is not having a conversation on police alternatives, and they indicated that Metro’s security leadership is being counterproductive and uncooperative in this process.

1. Commentor would like to see more engagement from Metro's Office of Race and Equity and the Office of Civil Rights.
- D. Commentor is a member of Jobs for America and ACT-LA. Based on the Ad-Hoc Committee reports, they are disappointed to see how much time is used discussing renewing or amending policing contracts, rather than community-led alternatives to law enforcement.
1. Commentor was part of the initial group advocating for the creation of PSAC, and they noted that it is incumbent on Chief Gerhardt to create the space for non-law enforcement alternatives.
- E. Commentor is a member of LA Forward. They noted that it is important for PSAC to look at safety solutions not dependent on police and that do not use the oversized police contracts.
- F. Commentor is a member of ACT-LA. They want to hear community-led safety solutions that do not rely on police and noted police alternatives highlighted in the "Metro as a Sanctuary" report. They also noted that safety can come through investments in housing and other community needs.

III. DISCUSSION

Metro Street Safety presentation

- A. Mark Vallianatos, from the Office of Extraordinary Innovation and Caro Vera from the Office of Equity and Race, led the presentation.
- B. **Data Sources:** Member Tajsar asked 1) where does Metro's traffic safety data come from and 2) what data does Metro want that it is not currently collecting?
1. Presentation team answered that traffic safety data is primarily collected from law enforcement agencies and the Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS). Metro collects data on collisions involving Metro, such as collisions involving busses. They noted that Metro's data collection supplements data from sources like TIMS.
 2. They also noted Metro could use hospitals and other non-law enforcement agencies as data sources.
- C. **Providing Further Detail:** Member de Rivera requested more information on existing street safety programs in fine detail. She appreciates that Metro is willing change fare enforcement but would like to suspend fare enforcement altogether.
1. Presentation team will send additional information to PSAC and will provide their contact information for PSAC members to follow-up.
- D. **Vision Zero:** Member de Rivera continued asking what party is being asked to change their behavior to reduce collisions.
1. Team clarified that Metro does not promote blaming the victims in collisions (i.e., by solely focusing on the actions of vulnerable street users like pedestrians and cyclists).
- E. **Working with CBOs:** Member de Rivera also asked to hear more about the ways that Metro is working with organizations that are represented frequently in

public comment and cites previous public commentators that expressed a lack of collaboration with the agency. She also noted that unhoused and mental health disability populations should be present in these collaborations.

1. The Street Safety team requested a list of the community organizations that attend PSAC meetings. They also stated that Metro works with the following organizations: People for Mobility Justice, LACBC, and organizations that are part of Community Partners. Going forward, they noted that they can connect with groups working with unhoused populations.
- F. **Metro Right of way:** Member Murrell asked how much data does Metro collect on collisions involving trespasses on Metro right-of-way.
1. Presentation team said that those trends may be in government-collected data.

Summary of Key Decisions, Unresolved Items, Looking Ahead

- A. In the case of the Ad-Hoc Subcommittees requesting more time, Member Dembo would like for to have the opportunity to share the justification for extension directly with the Board.
1. Facilitator team has discussed with the Metro team and will report back to PSAC on how to systematize future updates between the Board.

Proposed Timeline for Recommendations

- A. The facilitation team shared a potential timeline structure that incorporated extended deadlines to provide feedback on the existing policing and infrastructure protection services contracts.
- B. The extended timeline would give each Ad-Hoc Subcommittee five to six additional meetings to provide initial recommendations.
- C. The schedule anticipates bi-weekly meetings, as opposed to the current schedule of weekly meetings.
- D. The facilitation team intends to continue placing AHC report-outs to the full PSAC on future committee agendas.
- E. By November 2021, each Ad-Hoc Subcommittee should begin offering sample recommendations to the full PSAC.
- F. This would give the committee, in consultation with Metro, about three to four meetings to revise recommendations by the end of January.
- G. These timelines are still being finalized, pending additional feedback from committee members and Metro.
- H. Metro's formal evaluation of PSAC's recommendations would be sent to the full PSAC committee for feedback.
- I. It is anticipated that there will be a mechanism for the Metro Board to share feedback with PSAC (e.g., via Metro staff reporting back on how PSAC recommendations were received and implemented).
- J. The facilitation team will follow-up with a more detailed and finalized plan.

PSAC Participation in Setting General Committee Agendas

- A. Member Tajsar felt that a traffic safety presentation was not the most relevant to the mission of PSAC. He raised the point that the committee could be more proactive and better use its time by participating in agenda setting.
- B. Member de Rivera felt like traffic safety is not a PSAC-specific item. She acknowledged the role of traffic safety enforcement in systemic racism, using jaywalking as an example.
 - 1. If Metro is asking PSAC to consider broader areas of public safety, she asked that presentations be more focused and relevant to immediate PSAC concerns (e.g., Black Lives Matter).
 - 2. Member noted the need to rethink how communities are policed and the need to reduce policing.
- C. Member de Leon echoed member Mohammad's point on PSAC having more input in their meeting agendas. She would like to give feedback on missed meetings, noting that surveys may accomplish this.
- D. Member Smith felt that the committee has made some progress, but that the process could be more efficient without as many presentations from Metro staff.
 - 1. He would like to see more input from community organizations (e.g., Act LA and Labor Committee Strategy Center) and other folks who have lived experience on issues that PSAC is tasked with.
 - 2. Like Member de Rivera, he emphasized PSAC's mission to reimagine safety on public transit and to shift resources from the status quo to non-law enforcement alternatives.
 - 3. Member Smith would like it if PSAC could give feedback on agenda in advance as well.
- E. The facilitation team noted that the Brown Act constrains the timeline for posting agendas.
- F. Member Ajayi found Metro's Street Safety presentation relevant, given its focus on equity.
 - 1. She cited the "Metro as a Sanctuary" report and its strategic design changes for public safety.
 - 2. She believes there is a tension with how public safety is defined among committee and believes semantics are worth arguing when they affect PSAC's work.
 - 3. Member suggested Metro offers pre-recorded presentations for members to watch in advance of meetings, instead of using meeting time to discuss presentations.
 - 4. She noted that the strength on PSAC is in its diversity of members.
- G. In the context of inviting guest speakers, Member Strickland mentioned that the YWCA works with young girls on the street, particularly those who have survived sexual trauma or abuse.
 - 1. She echoed Member Ajayi's point, asking if public safety considers only Metro or all public areas.

- H. Member Smith stated that it would be helpful to have a formal mechanism for PSAC to report directly to the Board to maximize clarity.
 - 1. He brought up that in Metro's previous report to the Board, a Supervisor wanted PSAC to weigh in on forthcoming procurement materials, but this is in contradiction to Metro staff's feedback noting that the materials are confidential and cannot be shared with PSAC.
 - 2. He disagreed Metro's statement made during the Operations Committee meeting that PSAC wants a year extension on the current policing contract, saying this is not accurate to what the Policing Practices ad hoc committee discussed.
 - 3. He highlighted the two opposing asks of PSAC: radically transforming Metro public safety practices to include new community-based alternatives, as opposed to minor adjustments to Metro's current practices for public safety.

Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Reports

- A. The facilitator proposed moving on to public comment in the interest of time. Members agreed with no objections.

IV. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. The following comments were shared:

- A. Commentor stated that the COVID-19 pandemic is over, the mask mandate is unsanitary, and that Metro should be fighting the state to remove the mask mandate.
- B. Commentor is concerned about unhoused drug users threatening civilians on transit. The commentor travels with their family and has seen drug use and public masturbation on transit. They stated that the city's lack of law and order has given the impression that drug users can do whatever they want, leaving other residents to feel like they cannot use Metro and that they are abandoned.
- C. Commentor went downtown on July 7 via the Red Line and saw riders without masks. They also saw a suspicious man approaching random men to ask if they were talking to a woman. They stated the need for law enforcement and mental health experts to address crime and mental health issues.
- D. Commentor loves having LAPD present at stations and would like to see them all the way from downtown to Santa Monica. They feel like crime is down when LAPD is around.
- E. Commentor is a frequent bus rider and occasional train rider. They have noticed on busses that riders generally wear face masks, but on trains, only half of riders wear masks. Commentor would like to see security and police make people wear face masks.

V. Closing Comments

- A. Member Wen clarified a mistake on the second bullet point concerning the report-out from the Non-Policing Alternatives Ad-Hoc Subcommittee.
 - 1. The discussion was not about shadowing law enforcement officers; rather, it was about shadowing service providers. The comment regarding shadowing law enforcement officers came up in the context of the Policing Practices Ad-Hoc Subcommittee.

VI. Adjournment

- A. Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm

VII. Next Steps and Follow-Ups

- A. Metro
 - 1. Street safety team will send further information and their contact information to PSAC.
 - 2. Presentation team requested a list of the community organizations that have attend PSAC meetings.
- B. Facilitation team
 - 1. Facilitators will report back to PSAC on how to systematize updates between the Board.
 - 2. Facilitators will deliver a finalized timeline to PSAC.
 - 3. Facilitators will ask PSAC members for a list of desired guest speakers.