

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee

General Committee Meeting #24

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 06, 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 Thomson 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, Carrie Madden, Darryl Goodus, Florence Annang, Charles Hammerstein, Sabrina Howard, Glenda Murrell, James Wen, Jose Raigoza, Maricela de Rivera, Chauncey Smith, Constance Strickland, Mohammad Tajsar, Chauncey Smith, Esteban Gallardo, Ma'ayan Dembo, Clarence Davis

Absent: Scarlett de Leon, Raul Gomez, Florence Annang, Jessica Kellogg, Sabrina Howard

d. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for 03/16/22**

- i. Committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes for the March 16th, 2022, meeting.
- ii. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

II. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants. There were no requests for public comments.

- a. Commentor stated that the use of the word “behavior” to address issues on buses is correct. They added the quality of buses and trains is declining, especially in regards to smoking and littering.

III. Discussion

I.

Approval of budget recommendations

Committee members reviewed and voted to approve the [PSAC Metro FY23 Budget Guidance](#) document.

- a. **Context Setting:** Facilitator France reviewed the revised key takeaways from the budget guidance document, including the recommendations to revise budget categories and increase investments in alternatives.
- b. **Gratitude and next steps:** Member Davis shared that he is grateful to have been able to help shape budget recommendations and work with Metro staff. He added that he hopes Metro incorporates recommendations and can share updates a year from implementation.
- c. **Public Comment**
 - i. Commentor Fung shared that dissatisfaction with LASD, coupled with an increase in their budget demonstrates a lack of accountability on Metro's part. They look forward to having transit ambassadors on board Metro vehicles.
- d. **Law enforcement budget decrease:** Member Tajsar asked committee members if they are in favor of including a recommendation that specifically calls for a decrease in the policing contract funding.
 - i. Member Smith expressed support for member Tajsar's recommendation and reminded members of the previous [recommendations](#) PSAC approved on the contracts.
 - ii. Member Wen asked members to reflect on comments from riders who indicate they are not seeing any security on trains or platforms.
 1. Member Tajsar responded that the goal of this recommendation is to increase non-armed personnel present in stations and vehicles.
 - iii. Member Goodus shared that he does not support reducing the law enforcement budget or going towards a non-contracted model.
 1. He also asked members to reflect on the increasing drug epidemic and the specialized training it will need.
 2. Finally, he added that he agrees Metro security and law enforcement does require improvements and supports a gradual reduction in the future.
 - iv. Member Dembo stated she supports decreasing funding for law enforcement but also feels confident in the current proposal for the next year's budget.
 - v. Member Smith added that the way the budget is currently structured, there are line items for security and law enforcement that are not obtuse in their naming. He recommended increased transparency in naming for the general public to understand who is the end recipient of these line items.
 - vi. Member de Rivera shared she is comfortable moving forward with the recommendations but appreciates comments from other members.

- e. **Office of Race and Equity:** Member Smith recommended that the proposal be modified to include a line item that would fund integrating the Office of Equity and Race to consult on all of Metro's public safety programs.
- f. **Modified Proposal:** Facilitator France asked members if they supported moving forward with the proposal with the following additions:
 - 1. Understanding that this document focuses on the coming year's Public Safety Budget, the committee asked to explicitly mention that its long-term vision is for Metro to transition away from the policing contracts and move to being served by non-contracted law enforcement. This directive was previously approved by the committee in this document.
 - 2. The committee requested additional detail be added to the takeaway regarding "Recategorization and Increased Transparency When Naming Budget Items."
 - 3. The committee requested the creation of a line item in future Public Safety Budgets that would fund coordination between the Office of Race and Equity and System Safety & Law Enforcement on public safety program development and implementation.
- ii. Vote to approve PSAC's Budget Recommendations for FY23
 - 1. Yes: 9 No:1 Abstain:1
 - 2. The item was approved

Introduction to Code of Conduct Workplan

Metro staff presented on their proposal for revisions to the Code of Conduct and responded to questions and comments from committee members.

- a. **Context setting:** Facilitator Mahdi provided an overview of the code of conduct process thus far and invited members from the community engagement ad hoc committee to share insights from their discussion with Metro. Notes from that meeting can be found [here](#).
 - i. Member de Rivera shared the conversation the ad hoc committee had around the use of the word "behaviors, communicating policies on bus and trains, and the effectiveness of signage.
- b. **Presentation:** Metro staff presented their work to date on the code of conduct. The goal is to ensure Metro provides a safe and secure transit experience.
- c. **Questions and comments:**
 - i. Member Smith stated that substantive provisions of the code of conduct need to be revised or completely stricken from the document because many of the current policies are proxies for targeting people that are homeless, of color, or have mental health issues.
 - 1. He cited alternatives such as bigger seats to avoid people taking up multiple

seats and more bathrooms to prevent public urination.

2. Metro staff shared that the goal of revising the code of conduct is to identify provisions that disproportionality impact vulnerable communities and invited more members to provide recommendations.
 - ii. Member Strickland shared that she is hesitant of the impact of a modified code of conduct if the environment on Metro stations, trains, and buses does not improve.
 - iii. Member Garcia posed the question of what the responsibility should be for riders as stewards.
 - iv. Member Madden shared that while having larger seats could be helpful, presently people with mobility issues are not able to access seats designated for riders with disabilities because of riders that unnecessarily take up multiple seats.
 1. She also shared that there are people with sight issues and different abilities that might not be able to relate to signage easily and urged Metro to have different ways of disseminating new policy information.
 - v. Member Davis shared the correlation of the lack of public spaces with negative behavior on buses and trains.
 1. Davis added that campaigns to increase policy compliance need to have more collaboration with community members.
 2. Member Smith also stated the importance of centering humanity when reimagining the Code of Conduct, as per PSAC's Mission and Values.
- d. **Next Steps:** Facilitator France shared a preview of the feedback questions the facilitation team will pose at the next meeting.

IV. General Public Comment

Public comment was taken from meeting participants.

- a. Commentor Fung shared that they appreciate the robust discussion and the need for accountability. They requested the ability for comments from the public to be longer than a minute.

V. Adjournment

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

VI. Next Steps

- a. The committee will reconvene on 04/20/22.