

Metro Public Safety Advisory Committee

General Committee Meeting #31

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 20th, 2022

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

a. Zoom Meeting Protocols

- i. Facilitator Thomson Dryjanski called the meeting to order. Facilitator Cuevas-Flores announced that Spanish and American Sign Language interpretation services would be available during the meeting.

b. Agenda

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

c. Roll Call

Present: Andrea Urmanita, Ashley Ajayi, Darryl Goodus, Glenda Murrell, Maricela de Rivera, Chauncey Smith, Esteban Gallardo, Scarlett de Leon, Clarence Davis, Constance Strickland, Florence Annang, Glenda Murrell

Absent: Raul Gomez, Jessica Kellogg, Mohammad Tajsar, Jose Raigoza, Sabrina Howard, Charles Hammerstein, Ma'ayan Dembo

d. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 07/06/22

- i. Committee members voted to approve the meeting minutes for the July 6th, 2022, meeting.
- ii. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

II. General Public Comment

The facilitators opened public comments.

- a. The commentator indicated they would like to see more bike lockers for riders. They also requested additional improvements to make it easier for cyclists to use Metro buses and trains.

III. Discussion Items

Item 1: Advisory Recommendations for Metro's Community Engagement on Public Safety Topics

Committee members discussed and voted to approve recommendations on how Metro should perform community engagement on public safety topics.

- a. **Context setting:** Members of the Community Engagement ad-hoc committee provided an overview of the recommendations to improve community outreach for public safety topics.
 - i. **Key Goals:** Member Goodus shared that a focus of the committee is for Metro's public engagement to reach as many people as possible, to make the process inclusive, and capture a broad spectrum of experiences. One of their key discussions was about trying to get more members of the public involved in Metro programs.
 - ii. **Facility Conditions:** Member de Rivera highlighted the need for improved cleanliness. She defined the stations as the point where Metro meets their riders and cleanliness is important to improve that relationship.
 - 1. Metro staff commented that funding for custodians has been substantially increased for the FY23 fiscal year.
 - iii. **Community Engagement:** Member Davis emphasized the need for Metro's community engagement to make riders aware of security service updates, new routes and stations, and ballot initiatives. He also reiterated his support for suggested fares on the system.
 - 1. Facilitator Dryjanski asked for clarification on Member Davis' comment on education and engagement in Metro systems.
 - a. Member Davis responded that the goal is to improve communication between riders and Metro to create a safer environment.
 - b. Facilitator Dryjanski restated the recommendations as:
 - i. Improve in-station engagement and customer experience;
 - ii. And to create a standing advisory committee focused on community engagement practices and outreach.
 - iii. Member Davis agreed with these summations.
- b. **Discussion:** Committee members provided feedback on the recommendations and developed modifications for the final draft document
 - i. **In-person Outreach:** Member De Leon uplifted the importance of having Metro workers on the system participating in outreach since online engagement is not always accessible.
 - ii. **Community Stewardship:** Member Strickland suggested Metro reimagine the way they offer access to space, programming, and funding to Metro riders and grant applicants.
 - 1. Facilitator Dryjanski clarified that the recommendation is that Metro improve community stewardship of transit spaces by allowing underutilized spaces to be used by community organizations.

- a. Member Strickland agreed and further emphasized the need for an accessible application process.
 - iii. **Diverse Experiences:** Member Garcia shared appreciation for the recommendations as a whole and emphasized the section that underscores that experiences of safety are different for different population groups.
 - iv. **Prevention system:** Member Davis reiterated his proposal for having a voluntary color-coded TAP Card system for riders with disabilities and children that helps identify them if they get lost.
 - 1. Facilitator Dryjanski summarized the recommendations as:
 - a. Create a regional liaison for local Metro community topics;
 - b. And create a support system for riders prone to getting lost on the system.
 - c. Member Davis agreed with these summations.
 - v. **Customer experience:** Metro staff Osborn shared that they are working with the Customer Experience team to develop a customer service program for transit security officers.
- c. **Public Comments:** No public comments were offered on this agenda item.
- d. **Proposal:** Facilitator Dryjanski put forward a proposal to approve the recommendations with the following additions:
 - i. Improved engagement for in-station customer service;
 - ii. Creating a standing community engagement advisory committee;
 - iii. Improving community stewardship of transit stations by easing access to programming, funding, and space utilization for community purposes;
 - iv. Creating a regional community outreach coordinator;
 - v. And supporting the needs of children and other riders prone to being lost.
- e. **Voting Action**
 - i. Vote tally to approve modified recommendations for Metro's community engagement on public safety:
 - 1. Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 0
 - 2. The item was approved

Item 2: Recommendations on Metro's Public Safety Analytics & Bias-Free Policing Policy

Members discussed these recommendations from the Non-Law Enforcement Alternatives ad-hoc committee. When moved to a vote, the recommendations would not be approved as the committee did not reach a simple majority.

- a. **Context Setting:** Facilitator Dryjanski reviewed the committee's previous recommendations on "Opposing Predictive Policing." These previous recommendations inform the recommendations up for a vote because they call for Metro to:
 - i. Not use crime data to determine where to deploy law enforcement personnel;
 - ii. To adopt a robust ecosystem of non-law enforcement alternatives;
 - iii. And to use existing equity-driven data platforms.
- b. **Discussion:** Committee members provided feedback on the recommendations and developed modifications for the final draft document
 - i. **Outreach Methods:** Member Ajayi asked for more information on the outreach methods, specifically the call to prioritize in-person engagement and the prioritization of rider requests in the operations and maintenance status data set.
 - 1. Member Goodus responded that some people prefer in-person engagement, and the ad-hoc committee would like to be inclusive of those needs.
 - 2. Member Ajayi suggested adding vehicle operators, bus drivers, rail conductors, and elevator attendants to the datasets recommendation language.
 - 3. Facilitator Dryjanski shared that he will rephrase the recommendation to include frontline workers.
 - 4. Member Murrell made the distinction that service attendants maintain the vehicles, trains, and buses, while custodians maintain the facilities. They both have separate unions and tasks.
 - ii. **Outcomes:** Member Goodus highlighted the importance of the outcomes for the key performance indicators section in summarizing the purpose of the recommendations.
 - iii. **Use of Crime Data:** Metro staff Osborn asked for clarification as to why there are concerns regarding the use of crime data.
 - 1. Facilitator Dryjanski noted that the committee has made the distinction that they are opposed to using crime data specifically to deploy law enforcement resources. They indicate that crime data may be useful for the deployment of other resources.
 - 2. Member Davis responded that he is against the use of data to try to predict crime, as it has led to the over-policing of certain communities.
 - a. Metro staff replied that they do not expect data to be used this way and can see additional resources being provided to stations with high crime report rates, especially regarding vandalism incidents.

3. Member Smith shared that Metro staff is advocating for tools that are racially and economically equitable. He highlighted Metro's current issue with disproportionately citing and arresting riders of color, which leads to more disproportionate outcomes because of the biased data being utilized.

- a. Members Strickland and Ajayi echoed Member Smith's comments.

b. Public Comment: No public comments were provided.

c. Proposal: Facilitator Dryjanski put forward a proposal to approve the recommendations with the following modifications:

- i. Add a recommendation on addressing the digital divide for outreach;
- ii. Reframe "Datasets 3.b.i. and 3.d.i." to include requests from Metro frontline staff as well;
- iii. And add transit ambassadors as a key constituent.

d. Voting Action

- i. Vote tally to approve recommendations for Metro's Public Safety Analytics and Bias-Free Policing policy:

1. The vote was (6) "yes" votes, (1) "abstain" vote, and (2) members "absent."

- a. Note: At the time that the vote was called, Member Annang had been marked "absent." Approximately two minutes after the vote was called, Member Annang indicated in the Zoom chat that she would "abstain from voting due to [a] bad WiFi [connection]" at her location. She has been marked absent in the summary above.

2. The committee was unable to reach a simple majority to support the approval of the recommendations.

e. Next steps: The facilitation team will provide an update as to whether this item will be brought back for consideration.

IV. General Public Comment

The facilitators opened public comments. There were no public comments from meeting participants.

V. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

VI. Next Steps

- a. The committee will reconvene on 08/17/22.