



**City Light Review Panel Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting: February 11, 2020 | 11:00AM – 2:00PM | SMT3205 “Final”**

<b>MEETING ATTENDANCE</b>					
<b>Panel Members:</b>					
<b>Names</b>		<b>Name</b>		<b>Name</b>	
Gail Labanara	√	John Putz	√	Mikel Hansen	√
Sara Patton		Patrick Jablonski	Skype	Leon Garnett	√
Thomas Buchanan		Chris Mefford	Skype		
<b>Staff and Others:</b>					
Debra Smith		Jen Chan	√	Karen Reed (Consultant /RP Facilitator)	√
Kirsty Grainger	√	Mike Haynes	√	Tom DeBoer	√
Julie Moore	√	Chris Ruffini	√	Maura Brueger	√
Gregory Shiring	√	Carsten Croff	√	Leigh Barreca	√
Eric McConaghy	√	Alex Pedersen		Kathryn Aisenberg	√
Emeka Anyanwu	√	Tom DeBoer	√	David Logsdon	√
Kathleen Wingers	√	Angela Bertrand	√	Madeline Kostic	√
Andrea DeWees	√	Jenny Levesque	√		

**Welcome.** Gail Labanara, Panel Chair, convened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and led a round of introductions.

**Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

**Review of Agenda** Karen Reed, Panel Facilitator, reviewed the agenda.

**Approval of Meetings from January 21<sup>st</sup>.** The meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**Chairs Report.** Gail did not have a report.

**Communications to Panel.** There were no communications to the Panel.

**SCL in the News/Updates.** Leigh Barreca, Strategic Planning and Performance Manager for City Light noted that the new interim Communications Director for City Light, Julie Moore, has created a summary of articles mentioning SCL and if the Panel wishes, she will include monthly summaries going forward, and Julie can take 3-5 minutes to speak to them. Summaries will be available the day of each meeting. The Panel agreed with this proposal.

**Updates to the RoadMap.** Carsten Croff noted that the preliminary report on cost of service is done and will be presented next month to the Panel. The Demand Respond pilot project survey is out in the field. The rate path for the next strategic plan is being finalized. The customer technology projects are on schedule; the “time of use” rate capability is being tested.



## City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Q: What is the status of the updated rate design? Will this be part of the strategic plan? A: No, it was part of the last plan. The rate design proposal will come back to the Panel after the upcoming strategic plan is submitted to the Mayor's office.

Carsten continued his presentation; the "rate case" is being developed for the Mayor and Council's consideration; it includes the specific rate design proposal, the 6-year rate path and the cost of service.

Q: When will the Panel see the final rate path that will be in the strategic plan? A: March.

Julie Moore, interim communications manager, introduced herself to the Panel. The media re-cap mentioned earlier by Leigh was circulated to the Panel. Julie described the challenge SCL is currently having with copper wires being stolen from light poles, and how SCL is responding; she is working with the media on an article about this.

**General Managers/CEO's Report.** Debra is unable to attend today's meeting; there is no report.

**Review Panel Letter Process Discussion.** Gail Labanara noted the materials in the packet and email from Karen with all the past panel correspondence. Gail wants everyone to understand the process ahead of us to develop the Panel's comment letter. Karen noted the subject matter list from past letters, excerpts from the Council Ordinances creating the Panel that describe the Panel's role. At Leon Garnett's suggestion, Karen created a template for the Panel members to use to take notes on during the next few months on potential letter topics.

**Legislative Update.** Maura Brueger, Director of Government and Legislative Affairs presented a short PowerPoint providing an overview of the current state and federal legislative priorities of the Utility. At the state level, the major priority for the utility is a low carbon fuel standard bill that would create a point trading system across different fuel sources, including electricity. It is unlikely to pass this year but is a major priority for the Governor. Other priorities include community solar, cap and investment legislation, system reliability (this legislation is primarily focused on rural areas), and "beneficial electrification" which is aimed at creating parity for customers switching from natural gas to electric energy sources. City Light's federal legislative priorities have been the same for a few years; not much is moving under the current administration. Defending BPA against privatization efforts remains a priority. Maura noted the importance of the utility's partner trade associations and membership agencies in advancing City Light's legislative interests.

At this point, the group took a short break.

**Transportation Electrification Strategic Investment Plan.** Emeka Anyanwu, Officer of Energy Innovation and Resources introduced the topic and three staff attending to give the presentation: Andrea DeWees, Policy Analyst, Madeline Kostic, Sr. Energy Management Analyst, and Jenny Levesque, Community Outreach Manager. They described the scope of the City's transportation electrification efforts, expected benefits, City Light's role in the electrification plan, how stakeholders are being engaged, initiative goals and areas identified so far for strategic



## City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

investment.

Discussion points included:

Q: What's the private sector doing here? A: We are engaged with them. We're trying to make ourselves easier to work with.

Comment: This effort goes beyond the City limits. Refer to your customer cities here. They are partners.

Comment: This effort is regional, even beyond the franchise cities. Consider how private investment, private vehicle fleets will be involved—those are regional business impacts and partners. The solution must be broader than just Seattle.

Q: What's Amazon doing here? A: They have committed to purchasing 10,000 electric delivery vehicles nationwide. We don't know where the ones in Seattle will be charged.

Q: On grid investment, how critical is that piece of the picture? Is there some point at which we'll need a huge grid investment to make this work? A: We are road-mapping this issue now. There are pockets of the grid that will need upgrades soon.

Q: What about rental cars at SeaTac? A: The rental car facility at SeaTac is in the City Light service territory. The Port is a key partner. They are also beginning a clean energy planning effort.

Q: Will this be part of rate design? A: Yes. We have Time of Use (TOU) rate pilots for this reason.

Q: Who will fund the necessary investments? A: Ratepayers as a whole. We're also looking for grants.

Q: The state legislation caps the cost that may be imposed on ratepayers here at 0.25%. How much is that? A: It depends on what we do, how much is capital expense versus operating, and on the resulting magnitude of change in demand for power.

Q: Is the cap 0.25% of total revenues? A: Essentially, yes.

Q: Are there any statistics on the costs invested already in this issue in our area, for example, how much has Metro transit invested? Knowing these numbers would make this seem more real. A: We know King County is looking to accelerate its purchase of electric buses by at least a decade over earlier planning targets.

Q: Is the use of batteries in vehicles as part of the power grid part of this? A: That is not yet at scale.



## City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Comment: For personal vehicles, the location of chargers is critical.

Comment: Electric buses are I think heavier than traditional buses. We should consider the impact of wear and tear on the roads.

**Discussion on Proposed Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives.** Leigh Barreca presented. She shared PowerPoint slides that included potential examples of strategic initiatives that could arise under each of the five proposed strategic plan priorities as a way to make them more concrete. She noted that there is no rank order to the priorities and that the wording will evolve. The goal for today is to identify gaps in the scope, offer wording changes, and understand where topics of importance to Panel members would go. Discussion Points included:

### Priority 1: Ensure Future Financial Stability

- We talked about this last time. Rather than “stability” I’d like to see more emphasis on affordability.
- I concur.
- The objective language doesn’t resonate with me
- “through increased innovation” is too vague.
- This priority is the most important one for me.
- Add adequate reserves as a measure

The Panel members present support the priority.

### Priority 2: Prepare for Tomorrow’s Energy Future Today

- Are we looking at infrastructure or customers here? I thought it was infrastructure but the objective mentions customer programs and customer choice.
- Are we looking here at the efficiency with which we use existing resources?
- I encourage SCL to stress its leadership role on this issue in how this is written, as well as the importance of regional collaboration.
- Is this where cyber security would come up? That is a major, critical issue. A: it’s under the “Keep the Light’s on” priority.

The Panel members present support the priority.

### Priority 3: Create a Customer Centric Culture

- Maybe retitle to say “build on” – something that doesn’t suggest you are starting from scratch.
- Is the customer in here or in priority 2?
- Is this where energy efficiency comes in? Creating an energy efficient culture?
- Is there any work that will be done on maximizing the value of the data from the AMI system? My firm is working on projects like that for other utilities. A: Yes. What we do with the data—there will be projects around this.



## City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

- The customer portal—not sure it is appropriate or accurate to call this a done deal and not have an initiative around it.
- Where does reliability go? A: Priority 5 (keep the lights on).
- Important to note changes to the regional economy—shift in the types of firms locating here—to be responsive to your customers. Their electricity needs will evolve.

Panel members present support the priority.

### Priority 4: Enable Transformative Change

- This sounds a lot like #2.
- The title doesn't communicate that it is about employees and internal processes.
- Can this be combined with number 5? I don't see this as a separate priority. It spans everything you do.
- Maybe this is an implementation strategy for all other goals.
- Internal focus should be part of priority 2.
- The Utility should express its leadership role in this priority.
- This initiative is important to employees.

Panel agrees that employees and being innovative and nimble is important, but mixed views on whether this should be a separate initiative.

### Priority 5: Keep the Lights On

- Reference to "core workforce" is confusing—wouldn't that be under priority 4?
- Other items identified as important to the Panel that would be included under this priority included:
  - Asset management
  - Cyber security
  - System reliability
  - Emergency management
  - Environmental stewardship

The Panel members present support the priority.

Further discussion identified a "home" for all items the Panel think are important – no gaps noted.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.