



Minutes

Meeting:	TriMet Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting	Date:	January 22, 2025
Board Members Present:	JT Flowers Tyler Frisbee Erin Graham Robert Kellogg Thomas Kim LaVerne Lewis Kathy Wai	Board Members Absent:	

TriMet Board Business meetings and public forum are available via web video stream. You can access the archived meetings and materials at trimet.org/meetings/board.

Following Public Forum, President Lewis called the business meeting to order at 9:22am.

1. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) – Director Graham provided a summary of both the December 18, 2024 and January 15, 2025 CAT meetings. At the December CAT meeting, Pat Williams provided an update on Safety and Security efforts as well as an update on Senate Bill 1553 and House Bill 4002. Justin Rossman announced that TriMet is now officially part of the Sunflower Lanyard Program and lanyards will soon be available at the Jan Campbell Mobility Center. At the January meeting, Eileen Collins Turvey provided an overview of the FTA notice of proposed clarification on the Drug & Alcohol Policy clarification regarding Transportation Network Companies. Bernadette Le, TriMet Community Affairs and Engagement Coordinator, provided an update on the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project. Director Graham announced that Transit Equity Day, observed annually on February 4th to commemorate the life and legacy of Rosa Parks, will be hosted at the Transit Mobility Center from 11:00am to 1:00pm on February 4, 2025. The next CAT meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19.

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Flowers provided a summary of the December 11, 2024 MPAC meeting. The Committee received a briefing on the extension of the Streetcar system up to Montgomery Park, part of the Montgomery Park Area Plan. MPAC voted on an amendment to Title IV land use restrictions for this plan and the motion passed. The next MPAC meeting takes place tonight, January 22.

Finance and Audit Committee (F&A) – Director Kim provided a summary of this morning’s F&A meeting. The committee discussed the TriMet Debt Policy, which was last updated in 2019. Staff provided an overview of significant updates to the policy ahead of a resolution to come before the board in February. TriMet will look to issue bonds in FY2026 and there will be a resolution for the board’s consideration in February as well,

authorizing TriMet for up to \$150 million in revenue bonds. Lastly, we reviewed a budget transfer which will also come before the board in February for consideration.

2. **General Manager Report**

November and December Ridership

General Manager Desue provided a review of November and December 2024 ridership statistics. In November 2024, TriMet provided more than 5.4 million rides. Fall ridership is usually strong for TriMet, and November 2024 did not disappoint. Weekly ridership was up 5.7% Nov 23-to-Nov 24. That averages out to nearly 70-thousand additional boardings each week, as compared to November 2023.

Moving to December 2024, TriMet provided more than 5.2 million rides. Weekly ridership was slightly higher but relatively unchanged Dec 23-to-Dec 24. We saw significant gains in bus ridership, where weekly ridership was up 6.5%. Many of the improvements that we are putting in place as part of Forward Together are working as intended. Here are some examples: We now have data that shows ridership on Line 25-Glisan/Troutdale Road is up 437% year-to-year. This is due to an extension of the route, increased frequency and the addition of weekend service. Several other bus lines are showing double-digit increases. More people are riding FX2-Division, Line 19-Woodstock/Glisan and Line 70-12th Avenue. Our snapshot shows ridership on those lines is up 12 to 16%. Those are just some of the highlights for bus service improvements.

As for MAX, we saw a slight year-over-year decrease in weekly ridership. We are doing some additional analysis on those numbers, to get a better understanding. Some of it may be due to the way the ridership calculations were performed during disruptions for A Better Red, back in 2023. We are continuing to dig in to those numbers, and I should have additional information for you in the coming weeks.

Monthly Performance Report

Mr. Desue introduced Les Spitler, Director of Transit System Support Services, Andrew Wilson, Executive Director of Safety and Security, and Senior Operations and Finance Planning Analyst, Katherine Keeling, to present the monthly performance summary. A recording of the presentation can be found on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@trimet.

Rosa Parks Day

Mr. Desue announced that Tuesday, February 4th is Rosa Parks Day. It will be the fourth straight year that TriMet will not collect fares on February 4th, which was Rosa Parks' birthday. I have to thank former Board Director Keith Edwards for his leadership in bringing this idea forward and to the Board for adopting it in 2020. The actions then helped ensure that this tradition will continue into the future. Rosa Parks Day celebrates an incredibly brave woman who took a stand for freedom and equality, by remaining seated when she was not only told to move, but required to give her bus seat up to a white person, by the racist, segregationist laws in place in Alabama back in 1955. As we all know, police arrested Parks for her act of defiance. The blatant injustice galvanized a movement that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted for more than a year and it was a success. In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled segregation on city buses was unconstitutional. The Civil Rights Act of 1957 came a year later. And so, it is on February 4th that we celebrate transit equity. That's the idea that everyone should have fair access to transportation, regardless of race, income or gender. All are welcome on TriMet. I'd like to personally invite our Board members, employees and everyone in the community to ride with us, to reflect on the history and the struggles that got us here, and to be grateful for Rosa Parks and the mountain her actions moved, to bring real change for people in this country. This year, we are coordinating a special assembly with the students at Portland's Rosa Parks School, to help them learn the legacy of the civil rights icon for whom the school is

named. Believe it or not, there were no lessons dedicated to the school's namesake. Now, through our partnership, all of that has changed and both the students and the community will benefit.

Type 6 Rolls into Service

Mr. Desue provided an update on the Type 6 vehicles entering service. Our next generation of light rail vehicles, we call them 'The Type 6s', are beginning to roll into service. I'll be the first to admit, it took longer than we would have hoped, but there are a number of reasons for the longer timeline. First and foremost, these trains have cutting edge technology and upgraded features and we spent some time working out software challenges with the manufacturer. Another factor is that these are the first new MAX trains we've introduced to the system, without opening a brand new MAX line. In the past, burn-in and testing of the trains could be done on new areas of track that were not in service yet. That wasn't the case this go-round. These tasks had to be slotted into regular service, and you may have even seen some of the trains as they put on miles required by the FTA, before we could bring riders on board. Now they're ready, and we're introducing the new trains to our system and our riders. These Type 6 trains have updated digital signs, new LED lights, and better cameras on board with clearer pictures and new maintenance features that will allow our technicians to troubleshoot issues, even before they occur. In total, we will add 30 Type 6s; the rollout of which will continue in the months to come.

Ticket 2 Ride Continues and Expands

Mr. Desue provided an update on the Ticket 2 Ride program. Last year, we started a new partnership with the Timbers and Thorns for the soccer matches at Providence Park. It's called "Ticket 2 Ride," and that's just it. Match tickets doubled as fare on TriMet buses and MAX trains for up to 3 hours before and after the games. This gave fans the opportunity to use TriMet instead of driving, parking and dealing with all of the frustration that comes with that. We saw thousands of people take advantage of this benefit. We are continuing the partnership in 2025 and expanding on it. This year, if you're attending a soccer match or a concert at Providence Park, you'll also be able to use your ticket to the event as your ticket to ride as we have also partnered with LiveNation the concert promoter. The Timbers' home opener is coming up on February 23rd and Providence Park looks to hold its first concert of the year, Post Malone and Jelly Roll, on June 28th. TriMet is the way to go!

82nd Avenue LPA Vote

Mr. Desue shared an update on the 82nd Avenue Transit Project. We have reached a major milestone with the 82nd Avenue Transit Project. This project will bring faster, high-capacity, TriMet FX, Frequent Express, service to 82nd Avenue, which is currently home to our busiest bus line, Line 72. Last week, the project steering committee voted unanimously on its recommendation for the Locally Preferred Alternative or LPA. Generally speaking, the LPA identifies the route for the new FX line that will run about 10-miles between Clackamas Town Center and the northern terminus in the Cully neighborhood in Northeast Portland. The LPA vote is the culmination of more than two years of work, toward a shared vision of what the project should be. It also marks the transition of this project from Metro to TriMet. TriMet is holding an open house on the 82nd Avenue Transit Project this evening. Interested parties can get a look at that route and proposed stop locations, as well as talk to TriMet staff about the project. The open house will be at PCC Southeast, starting at 5:30 p.m. You can also go to trimet.org/82nd for a closer look at the project and to leave feedback. The Board will hear more about the project and the LPA during the February Board briefing and then vote on the LPA in March.

Title VI Program Update

Mr. Desue introduced John Gardner, Chief Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Officer, along with Christina Bonilla and Daphne Patrick, to provide an overview of updates to the Title VI Program, Language Access Plan and DBE. A copy of the presentation can be found in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Fallen Operator Procession

Mr. Desue shared details on a ceremonial procession in Seattle on January 10th that TriMet and ATU Local 757 joined to honor a slain bus operator. King County Metro Operator Shawn Yim was fatally stabbed on Dec. 18 while on the job. A TriMet bus and LIFT bus joined the more than 100 vehicles that gathered to honor Yim. The procession stretched nearly a mile long and transit agencies from around the Pacific Northwest, including Vancouver B.C., took part as did TriMet and our transit partner C-TRAN. The procession was followed by a memorial hosted by ATU Local 587. Among the TriMet and LIFT employees that took part in the procession was one of our operators who had worked previously with Yim at King County Metro. ATU 757's President Bruce Hanson and Vice President Henry Beasley were also there. All of those who represented us in Seattle described the experience as emotional and moving. They also described it as inspirational with such an overwhelming show of support from the transit industry and the community. My heart goes out to Mr. Yim's loved ones and his coworkers at King County Metro. I thank the TriMet and LIFT employees who represented us and showed that we stand with all of those touched by this senseless tragedy.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2024
- Resolution Directing Ordinances to be Read by Title Only

Action: Director Frisbee moved for approval of the Consent Agenda. Director Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

4. Resolutions

Resolution 25-01-01 – Authorizing a Modification of the Construction Manager/General Contractor Services Contract with Mass. Electric Construction Company for the Pioneer Courthouse Square Type 1 Traction Power Substation Replacement Project

General Manager Desue discussed Resolution 25-01-01. This resolution focuses on the project to reconfigure the substation at Pioneer Courthouse Square. The project will reconfigure the existing underground vault, to enhance maintenance access, improve ventilation for climate resilience and accommodate new electrical substation equipment. The substation is one of 12 installed in 1983 as part of the MAX Blue Line. Many components are obsolete, necessitating their upgrade or replacement. In June 2024, the TriMet Board approved a contract with Mass. Electric Construction Company for pre-construction services, amounting to about \$300,000 dollars. In September of 2024, the Board authorized a modification of \$1.5 million dollars for the purchase of long lead items and spare parts. This resolution authorizes a modification to include the \$5 million dollar total contract price for construction services, plus change orders of up to 20%, or \$1 million dollars. The \$6 million dollar contract modification is included in the Engineering and Construction FY2025 Budget and FY2026 budget forecast. Taking a look at diversity, Mass Electric employs about 1,600 people, of whom 43% are minorities and 10% are women.

Action: Director Kellogg moved for approval of Resolution 25-01-01. Director Flowers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

5. Ordinances

Ordinance 379 - Amending Chapter 14 of the TriMet Code to Revise the Definition of "Net Earnings from Self-Employment" (Second Reading)

General Counsel Devine read Ordinance No. 379 by Title Only.

Mr. Desue discussed Ordinance 379. This Ordinance comes as an annual housekeeping measure. Ordinance 379 has been reviewed by TriMet's outside tax counsel to make sure that it properly reconnects the definitions in Chapter 14 to the definitions in the current federal tax code.

Director Graham made a motion to adopt Ordinance 379. Director Wai seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted by General Counsel Devine.

Director Flowers – yes

Director Graham – yes

Director Kellogg – yes

Director Wai – yes

Director Kim – yes

Director Frisbee – yes

Director Lewis – yes

Hearing no further business, President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 10:31am.

Respectfully submitted,

Falesha Thrash, Board Administrator and recording secretary