



Minutes

Meeting:	TriMet Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting	Date:	June 25, 2025
Board Members Present:	JT Flowers Tyler Frisbee Robert Kellogg Thomas Kim LaVerne Lewis	Board Members Absent:	Erin Graham Kathy Wai

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 9:21am.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION PER ORS 192.660(2)(f) and (h)

2. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) Annual Luncheon – Eileen Turvey, TriMet Director of Accessible Transportation, provided a summary of Annual Luncheon on June 18. The Annual CAT Accessibility Luncheon will be held on June 18th, and the luncheon replaced the monthly business meeting. Eileen said the luncheon was a celebration highlighting all that we have achieved in the past year through partnership, dedication and ingenuity with the Committee on Accessible Transportation. At TriMet, we are guided by the belief that public transportation should serve everyone, without exception. But building a truly inclusive transit system takes more than good intentions; it requires partnership, insight, and lived experience. That's exactly what the CAT has brought to our agency for almost four decades. This committee is comprised of individuals who represent and advocate for older riders and those with disabilities. They have played a pivotal role in shaping the accessibility of our transit system. They've been our eyes and ears, and voices for accountability and they've been our partners in progress. From evaluating new vehicle designs and reviewing accessibility policies to identifying service gaps and pushing for innovation. The CAT has ensured that accessibility is never an afterthought, it's at the forefront of all decisions we make and what we do. They have helped us establish new standards — not just for TriMet — but for the public transit industry as a whole. Because of this committee's leadership and feedback, TriMet has made important accessibility advancements, such as: Improved wayfinding at bus stops and transit center, audio announcements that are clearer and more consistent, and safer, more accessible service on our buses and trains. CAT has helped shape training for our operators, advocated for better paratransit service, and reminded us again and again, that dignity, independence, and mobility go hand in hand. Their work is more than technical, it's transformational. They've helped us not only meet federal requirements, but exceed them. As I often say the ADA should be looked at as the floor and not the ceiling of our goals around accessibility. The CAT have helped thousands of riders experience greater freedom, independence,

opportunity, and connection. You know that accessibility is not just about buses with ramps and lifts. It's a system that is safe for older adults and people with disabilities. Accessibility is a system that is affordable for the people who need it most. Accessibility is service information that can be received and perceived by everyone who needs it. That's regardless of their abilities to read or understand English, regardless of their ability to see or hear. Accessibility is a system that is physically accessible with the ability to reach stops and stations and board vehicles without steps or stairs and with functional elevators and tactile paths to promote wayfinding. Accessibility is operators being respectful to allow riders their dignity, inclusive in planning and design and is core to who TriMet is. And that is because of CAT. The amazing volunteers and impassioned advocates serving TriMet and their communities, day in and day out. They are tenacious in their efforts, working with TriMet staff and leadership to motivate change. I want to also recognize the leadership and staff of TriMet, who demonstrate in all they do, that they are working tirelessly alongside CAT to build the most accessible transit system in the country. You are all dynamic and engaged partners and we could not do this work without your partnership.

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Flowers provided a summary of the May 28 MPAC meeting. During this meeting, the committee provided a successful endorsement of the 82nd Avenue Transit Project's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). MPAC's May recommendation to endorse the LPA will go to Metro Council, where a formal vote and resolution would occur this summer. Other topics at the May MPAC meeting included Metro staff updates on the Regional Housing Coordination Strategy, discussion of the Montgomery Park Streetcar LPA, and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. The next MPAC meeting is tonight, June 25.

Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) Project Tour – Director Flowers provided an overview of the IBR tour with TriMet staff on June 17. The tour provided a better understanding of the current challenges of the bridge connecting the state of Oregon and the state of Washington, the most essential corridor on I5, as it pertains to the Oregon/Washington connection. Formerly known as the Columbia River Crossing, this project has been in the making for many, many years. Director Flowers shared that the group had the opportunity to walk a significant portion of the bridge to go into the stations where staff man and operate the draw section of the bridge and attend to any safety risks, crashes, or other notifications they receive from partner authorities. The group learned more about what the bridge will look like once the IBR project is complete. Director Flowers stated that we have a series of major infrastructure projects that will fundamentally redefine the next 50 years of life in Oregon and this project is front and center. He said it is the most expensive, but also the most essential to ensure the efficient movement of freight throughout this corridor of I5 and the efficient movement of people as the revitalized Interstate Bridge will be a light rail line that runs from Portland into Vancouver.

Finance and Audit Committee (F&A) – Director Kim reported a summary of this morning's F&A meeting, which consisted of two agenda items. The first item discussed was reviewing a budget transfer resolution that appears on today's consent agenda. The transfer moves funds from the Safety and Security budget to other divisions within the FY25 budget to keep us compliant with Oregon budget law. The second item discussed was to review the resolution to come before the Board today to amend the Strategic Financial Plan. Following the reading of resolution, Chief Financial Officer, Nancy Young-Oliver will provide a brief presentation.

3. General Manager Report

While General Manager Desue was present at the meeting, he asked General Counsel Shelley Devine to read the General Manager report and introduce the board resolutions today as he was recovering from laryngitis.

Statewide Transportation Package

Ms. Devine provided a summary of current discussions in Salem. The Oregon Legislature is racing to approve House Bill 2025, the Transportation Reinvestment Package, or Oregon TRIP, which contains a phased increase of 0.2 percent in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) rate. STIF is a critical source of funding for transit. The current rate is 0.1 percent, which is not enough to stave off our fiscal cliff, and many other transit agencies are in the same position or worse. We are asking for a 0.4 percent increase, and while the amount that is in the bill will not solve all our problems, it is a significant increase that would provide a lifeline for a lot of our service that we would otherwise have to cut. The transportation package still needs a two-thirds majority in the House and a two-thirds majority in the State before it goes to the Governor's desk. The Governor supports the bill and she is expected to sign it if it does pass the Legislature. There is a time crunch here as the legislative session ends on Sunday. We will be watching this closely and hoping this package goes through before the end of the session.

May Ridership

Ms. Devine shared an update on ridership for the month of May. TriMet provided about 5.8 million rides in May. That's up 4.5 percent from May 2024. We are continuing to see bus ridership recovering strongly, up 7.8 percent looking at the weekly average. MAX ridership was mostly flat in May. But keep in mind, we had a 2-week service disruption on the MAX Blue Line last month and used shuttle buses in place of train service. Our analysts believe that may have pushed bus ridership higher for the month, while lowering MAX ridership a bit. Meanwhile, WES ridership increased from 2024, with the weekly average up by 7.2 percent.

Monthly Operations Analysis

Ms. Devine introduced Les Spitler, Director of Transit System Support Services, to present the Monthly Operations Analysis. A copy of the report can be located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

TriMet NEXT

Ms. Devine provided an overview of a new pilot program, TriMet NEXT, which stands for Neighborhood Express Transit. This pilot program is being developed to help people connect with their community. It is similar to ride-hailing services like Uber. TriMet NEXT works with a smartphone app that lets riders easily book a trip during service hours, 9am – 6pm, seven days a week. Instead of going to a stop to wait for the bus, the NEXT bus, which is smaller and completely accessible, comes to your location usually within about 30 minutes. It can take you to the grocery store, the doctor's office, the MAX station or wherever else you need to go within the NEXT service area. Right now, the pilot includes the neighborhoods of Powell Valley and South Gresham, which are both in Gresham. We are evaluating this service for older adults and people with disabilities in this part of Gresham. If the pilot is a success, we will look at ways to expand it to serve more riders. One feature that sets our service apart from those ride-hailing apps is cost. With TriMet NEXT, you simply pay your TriMet fare. There's no surge pricing ever.

Safety and Security Monthly Update

Ms. Devine invited Andrew Wilson, Executive Director of Safety and Security, to come forward and present a monthly Safety and Security Update. A copy of the presentation can be located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

APTA and METRO Magazine Awards

Ms. Devine provided details on a few awards TriMet has received recently. The American Public Transit Association, APTA, has recognized some amazing work by our Maintenance of Way team. TriMet Maintenance of Way, or M-O-W, came up with an ingenious solution to keep our copper cables secured. Through rigorous testing, they found a way to bury cables with a thick, protective casing, making it just

about impossible for anyone to mess with them. This is already improving our reliability and saving us money. This is such an awesome fix that it's received an APTA Innovation Award.

We also received an award from METRO Magazine recognizing another great innovation here at TriMet. If you have been out on the system, you may have noticed new digital displays which we've now installed at every transit center and nearly every MAX station. We have also installed hundreds of displays at bus stops, even ones that don't have a place we can plug them in. So, how do we do that? We partnered with Connectpoint to install ePaper displays at these bus stops with solar panels to power the displays so they don't need to be plugged in. ePaper has a display like a tablet reader so there is no glare. This solution is getting a lot of attention around the transit industry and METRO Magazine has recognized it with their Innovative Solutions Award. Congratulations to all of our employees who have been involved in these efforts. TriMet is known for our innovation and these awards acknowledge our agency's tireless efforts for continuous improvement.

Employee Recognition

Ms. Devine introduced Greg Skillman, Senior Deputy Counsel for Governance. After thirteen years at TriMet, today is Greg's last in-person board meeting before he fully retires from TriMet. Ms. Devine read a letter on behalf of General Manager Desue, thanking Greg for his time and dedication to TriMet. A recording of the employee recognition can be found on the TriMet YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@trimet>.

Remembering Security and Emergency Management Director, Pat Williams

Ms. Devine acknowledged the passing of Pat Williams, Security and Emergency Management Director. Pat passed away on May 31 of natural causes. His memorial was held on June 13, was widely attended and he was given a full honor guard service. Ms. Devine invited Andrew Wilson, Executive Director of Safety and Security, to come forward and say a few words about Pat. The room then observed a moment of silence in his honor.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for May 28, 2025
- Resolution 25-06-29 – Amending the General Manager's Level of Contracting Authority
- Resolution 25-06-30– Authorizing the Transfer of Appropriated Funds within the FY2024-2025 Budget
- Resolution 25-06-31 – Memorializing the Transfer of Ownership and Maintenance of the Gideon Pedestrian Overcrossing (now known as the Bob Stacey Crossing) to the City of Portland
- Resolution 25-06-32 – Authorizing a Contract Modification to the Construction Manager/General Contractor Services Contract with Mass. Electric Construction Company for Procurement of Long Lead Time Equipment for the E. 181st Avenue Element of the Type 1 Traction Power Substation Replacement Project

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

4. Resolutions

Resolution 25-06-33 – Amending the Strategic Financial Plan

General Counsel Devine discussed Resolution 25-06-33. TriMet's Strategic Financial Plan is intended to guide the district's financial decisions, ensure that annual budgeting complies with policies and promote long-term financial stability. Our current Strategic Financial Plan must be updated and approved by the Board to ensure alignment with existing policies, incorporate new financial policies and provide a clear, organized and transparent framework to guide the District's long-term financial planning and decision making. Since the plan's initial adoption in 2014, the Board has approved numerous financial policies, which were later

incorporated into the plan in 2019. In 2023, 2024, and 2025, the Board approved additional financial policies. These more recent policies, plus additional financial policies described in this resolution, have been included in the proposed, amended and restated Strategic Financial Plan. The amended and restated Strategic Financial Plan is attached as Exhibit A to this Resolution. It was provided to the Board on May 29, to allow time for review, evaluation and commentary. Ms. Devine introduced Chief Financial Officer, Nancy Young-Oliver to provide an overview of what is included. A copy of the presentation can be located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Action: Director Kellogg moved for approval of Resolution 25-06-33. Director Kim seconded the motion. After discussion, President Lewis tabled the motion to allow for an amendment to the document. Director Frisbee moved to amend page 6 of the Strategic Financial Plan, section 3.3, fifth bullet, to delete the word 'adequate' and replace it with the word 'reasonable'. The motion proposed by Director Frisbee was seconded by Director Kim. The motion to amend page 6, section 3.3, fifth bullet passed with unanimous approval. After further discussion, Director Flowers moved to amend page 9 of the Strategic Financial Plan, section 4.7, second bullet, to read 'The Board will strongly consider adjusting fares at least every four years to help ensure pricing keeps pace with the cost of services, taking into account other factors, e.g., Title VI and inflationary impacts'. The motion proposed by Director Flowers was seconded by Director Frisbee. The motion to amend page 9, section 4.7, second bullet passed with unanimous approval. President Lewis returned to as for a vote on the original motion to include both amendments. Resolution 25-06-33 passed with the two amendments outlined above with unanimous approval.

Resolution 25-06-34 – Authorizing a Contract with Arrowhead Drug Screening, LLC

General Counsel Devine discussed Resolution 25-06-34. As a public transit provider, TriMet is subject to DOT and FTA Drug and Alcohol Regulations. These regulations require TriMet to have a Drug and Alcohol Program and conduct drug and alcohol testing of employees who are involved in safety-sensitive positions. Those safety sensitive positions include bus and rail operators, maintenance personnel, safety and security employees, supervisors and similar personnel. That's about 2,700 members of our workforce, or roughly 75% of our staff. To carry out our program, TriMet employs a 3rd party Drug and Alcohol Testing Administrator, assisted by a Drug and Alcohol Program Specialist. The program is designed to help prevent collisions, injuries and fatalities resulting from the misuse of alcohol and use of prohibited drugs by safety-sensitive employees. We also test employees who have been involved in incidents or collisions promptly, after the event occurs. Because TriMet operates 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, we must be able to conduct testing every day, and across all hours of operations, including weekends and holidays. As the current contract for our Drug and Alcohol Testing Administrator is expiring, TriMet issued an RFP and received five proposals. Arrowhead was determined to be the best value for TriMet and was awarded a 5-year contract for \$1.6 million dollars.

Action: Director Flowers moved for approval of Resolution 25-06-34. Director Frisbee seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 25-06-35 – Authorizing Amendment No. 16 to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Portland for Streetcar Operations

General Counsel Devine discussed Resolution 25-06-35. TriMet and the City of Portland have operated the Portland Streetcar jointly since its inception in 2001. In 2012, the Board authorized the General Manager to execute a Streetcar Master Agreement and a Streetcar Operating Agreement with the City. The Streetcar Master Agreement sets out the policy, coordination and decision-making structure of Streetcar. The Streetcar Operating Agreement is a supporting IGA that governs operations, personnel, operation and maintenance and funding for Streetcar. Under the IGA, TriMet provides unionized operators and maintenance personnel. The City of Portland:

- Pays for all Streetcar rolling stock, equipment and maintenance,
- Provides managers and supervisors, and
- Reimburses TriMet for wages and part of the benefits of Streetcar Operators and maintenance personnel.

The Streetcar Operating Agreement also requires TriMet to pay the City a share of annual Streetcar operating costs, with the specific funding amount determined by the parties each year. This year's amendment is Amendment No. 16.

Action: Director Kellogg moved for approval of Resolution 25-06-35. Director Frisbee seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 25-06-36 – Authorizing Intergovernmental Agreements with Metro, Washington County and Cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro, Cornelius, and Forest Grove, for the Tualatin Valley Highway Transit and Safety Project

General Counsel Devine discussed Resolution 25-06-36. The Tualatin Valley Highway Transit and Safety Project envisions a 16.2-mile FX bus line, running along Oregon Highway 8 and the route of TriMet's current Line 57, between Beaverton and Forest Grove. The project will lay the groundwork for TriMet's third Frequent Express bus line, following FX2-Division, which opened to riders in 2022 and the 82nd Avenue Transit Project, which is projected to open in 2029. It is currently one of the highest transit priorities for Oregon Metro, Washington County and our partner jurisdictions. Those partners and the TriMet Board recently adopted the Locally Preferred Alternative or LPA for the Project. Once Metro approves the LPA, it will be included in Metro's fiscally constrained Regional Transportation Plan, as required by the FTA. TriMet will be the lead agency for Project Development and Construction. During the Project Development phase of the project, TriMet must accomplish the following:

- Complete the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA process
- Develop sufficient information for the FTA to determine a project rating
- Develop design and cost-estimating plans through a "100% issue for construction set," and
- Coordinate with FTA's Project Management Oversight Consultant (PMOC) to develop a Project risk assessment and readiness report.

Those Project Development tasks are estimated to cost about \$25 million dollars. Pursuant to their IGAs, project partners have agreed to contribute about \$16.2 million dollars of the total. TriMet will expend about \$8.9 million dollars in general funds to support project development work over the FY2026 and FY2027 fiscal years. Approval of the resolution will authorize the execution of IGAs with each of the partners and demonstrate to the FTA that TriMet is able to commit the requisite \$25 million dollar funds to the project.

Action: Director Flowers moved for approval of Resolution 25-06-36. Director Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

5. **HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS**

President Lewis addressed two housekeeping matters; TriMet Board Officer Elections and board committee appointments. ORS 267.120(1) requires the TriMet Board to elect officers every two years. At the July 2024 Board meeting, President Ozzie Gonzalez, who had been elected in July of 2023, resigned from the Board. His resignation resulted in a special, out-of-cycle election of Board officers, in which I was elected President to finish Ozzie's term, and Thomas Kim was elected Vice President to complete Keith Edwards' term.

Director Kathy Wai continued serving as Secretary-Treasurer. At this time, the out-of-cycle terms have concluded for Director Kim and me, and Director Wai has completed her full two-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. The Board now has returned to its regular election cycle. That means it is time to hold our regular statutory officer elections, for a term of two years. Therefore, I would propose the following slate of Board officers: Laverne Lewis, President; Thomas Kim, Vice-President; Tyler Frisbee, Secretary-Treasurer. If elected, we will assume office effective July 1, 2025.

Action: Director Kellogg moved for the approval of the slate of Board officers as proposed. Director Flowers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

President Lewis continued on to the second housekeeping matter. ORS Chapter 267 authorizes the General Manager to establish Committees, and TriMet Code 2.35 authorizes the Board President to appoint members to serve on various Committees. These Committees help ensure that the Board effectively conducts its policy-level oversight of the affairs of the District. With respect to Board Committee assignments, the General Manager and the Board President consult regarding proposed assignments, then the Board votes to confirm the appointments. The Board most recently confirmed Committee members in September 2023, by Resolution No. 23-09-39. Then, on October 23, 2024, when Erin Graham and JT Flowers joined the Board, I made interim Committee appointments for them. Now, after consultation with the General Manager, and receiving input from Board members, I am appointing the following Board members to the Committees listed below for a two-year term, effective July 1, 2025:

Accountability Committee:

Robert Kellogg, alternate: Erin Graham

ATU/TriMet Defined Pension Trust Fund:

Thomas Kim, alternate: JT Flowers

Crash Advisory Committee:

Robert Kellogg, alternate: LaVerne Lewis

Committee on Accessible Transportation:

Erin Graham, alternate: Kathy Wai

Finance & Audit Committee:

LaVerne Lewis, Thomas Kim (Chair), Tyler Frisbee, alternate: Kathy Wai

Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC):

JT Flowers, alternate: Tyler Frisbee

Transit Equity Advisory Committee (TEAC):

Kathy Wai, alternate: LaVerne Lewis

Ad Hoc Land Use Committee:

Kathy Wai & Robert Kellogg

Finally, even though Director Wai's term as Secretary-Treasurer is completed, she graciously agreed to serve as *interim* Secretary-Treasurer during Director Frisbee's upcoming maternity leave.

Action: Director Flowers moved for the approval of the Board committee appointments as proposed. Director Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Hearing no further business, President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 11:08am.

6. BRIEFING

President Lewis introduced John Gardner, Executive Director for Public Access and Innovation, to provide an updated to our federally required Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Plan. A copy of the presentation can be located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Falesha Thrash, Board Administrator and recording secretary