



Minutes

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

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 10:02am.

1. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) Annual Luncheon – Director Graham provided a summary of the October 17 CAT business meeting. The Committee was encouraged to complete surveys and attend upcoming outreach events regarding FY26 and FY27 service reductions. The LIFT subcommittee provided updates to both changes to rider web booking tools and FY26 priorities for LIFT. The Wayfinding subcommittee provided a progress update on screen reader accessibility testing for new web pages, Falcon device rollout and placement of braille instructions on Falcon devices. The 82nd Avenue Community Advisory Committee also provided updates on BAT lanes along the route and safe pedestrian infrastructure with buffers from traffic. TriMet staff updates included fixed route operator trainings, a new CAT ad hoc committee regarding increases to ADA pass-ups, TV HWY Community Advisory Committee applications are now open, and progress on the 82nd Avenue Frequent Express project. The next CAT business meeting is scheduled for November 19.

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Flowers provided a summary of the September 24 MPAC meeting. The committee received two briefings from Metro staff on the Future Vision update and on the regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. The Committee also received a presentation from Dr. Leslie King, a medical doctor and professor at Portland State University, on the impacts of built environment on health. The next MPAC meeting is tonight, October 22.

Accountability Committee – Director Kellogg provided a summary of the September 24 Accountability Committee meeting. Committee members heard from TriMet’s Manager of Digital Communications, Dave Whipple, regarding the number of visits to our Transparency and Accountability website year over year, which remained relatively flat. However, visits to the trimet.org site overall remain quite high, at about 4 million views per month. The most visited pages in August 2025 on the Accountability and Transparency website included TriMet’s Finances and the Board of Directors page. The Committee also heard from Board

administrator Falesha Thrash, who had conducted an audit of the Accountability and Transparency website for outdated or redundant material, as well as for material that could be found only on the Accountability and Transparency website. A discussion ensued about redesigning the Accountability and Transparency site to make it even easier to navigate to and through, and Dave Whipple will be providing the committee with a prototype of the new look in the near future. The Committee also continued an ongoing discussion about how long we should keep material up on the website. Currently we have a minimum of five years, although actual usage and visits suggest that a minimum of three years would be adequate. The Committee also thanked Dave Whipple for his service on the committee, as this was his last meeting as a committee member. Dave served on the Committee for over ten years. His position is being filled by TriMet's Director of Communications, Roberta Altstadt. The next Accountability Committee meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026.

Finance and Audit Committee (F&A) – Director Kim shared a summary of this morning's F&A meeting. Three items were discussed at the meeting. First, the Committee reviewed the current budget balance scorecard for FY26-FY40, which will also be shared at the November 12 Board Retreat. Second, Eide Bailly reviewed the FY25 external audit, which will be presented during today's Board meeting. There were no deficiencies or instances of non-compliance to report from the audit. Lastly, the Committee reviewed federal awards to TriMet over the last ten fiscal years. The next F&A Committee meeting is scheduled for December 10.

Board Announcements – President Lewis provided a reminder to the Board that the annually updated Agency Safety Plan draft is now in the board portal. The Board will vote on the plan at the December 2025 board meeting. President Lewis also mentioned the General Manager's FY26 Deliverables are in the board packet and will be discussed after the resolutions today.

General Manager Report

82nd Avenue Update

General Manager Desue acknowledged the public testimony from this morning in regards to the 82nd Avenue Project Update and welcomed the feedback as it is all a part of the process to build a better transit project for 82nd Avenue. Mr. Desue introduced Jamie Snook, Interim Executive Director of Engineering and Construction, along with Michael Kiser, Interim Director of Major Projects, and Jesse Stemmler, Interim Director of the 82nd Avenue Transit Project, who provided a presentation and update on the project. A copy of the presentation can be located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org. Mr. Desue added that outreach continues as we want to gather feedback from the community to help influence the overall design of the project.

September Ridership

Mr. Desue provided an overview of ridership during the summer months. TriMet provided 5.5 million rides in September. That is a 2.7% increase in total weekly ridership over September of last year. September's report included several bright spots:

- Weekly ridership on bus was up nearly 8% year-over-year.

- Weekend bus ridership was up more than 14%, pushing weekend bus ridership for September to just shy of pre-pandemic levels, down just 4%.

- WES also had a good month, posting an 11% increase in September ridership.

Also, touching on ridership from last Saturday (October 18), the No Kings event brought an estimated 40,000 people to Downtown Portland, many of them going by TriMet. MAX trains were packed all afternoon and MAX ridership spiked by 24,000 trips compared to a typical Saturday in October. Bus ridership was also up by tens of thousands of rides. While marches in Downtown and the inner east side did lead to some disruption to MAX and detours to some bus lines, our team was out in force to keep people safe and keep

them moving as much as was possible. Along with our local law enforcement partners, we appreciate that the large gatherings have been peaceful. They also have been well received by many of the small business that got a boost with so many people Downtown and we appreciate the increase in ridership.

Eastside MAX Improvements Project

Mr. Desue detailed work conducted as part of the Eastside MAX Improvements Project. Work disrupted the MAX Red Line for six days, between Gateway Transit Center and Portland International Airport. The shutdown gave our crews time to do necessary state of good repair work on the Red Line, including replacing the rail along one of the tightest curves in the entire system. We call it “the fish hook.” You can’t miss it when you ride to the airport. Crews replaced 100 feet of curved rail there and more near the Cascades Station. They also deep cleaned closed stations, cleaned the ballast and replaced rail ties. All of this came after a daylong disruption on the MAX Blue, Green and Red lines for the safe removal of scaffolding at the NE 82nd Avenue MAX Station. That renovation project there is on track to wrap up by the end of the year. Kudos to our team for a job well done and thanks to our riders as well, for rolling with us through the disruptions as we complete these improvements. We are gathering feedback from riders on the experience, so that we can learn and make improvements to help future planned disruptions go even more smoothly.

Monthly Operations Analysis

Mr. Desue introduced Les Spitler, Director of Transit System Support Services, and Senior Analyst for Operations and Planning, Katherine Keeling, to present the Monthly Operations Analysis. A copy of the report is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Monthly Safety and Security Update

Mr. Desue invited Andrew Wilson, Chief Safety and Security Officer, to come forward and present a monthly Safety and Security Update. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

AAA Bond Rating Confirmed

Mr. Desue shared the news that TriMet’s AAA Bond Rating has been confirmed. The global credit-rating agency KBRA, or the Kroll Bond Rating Agency, has reaffirmed TriMet’s AAA rating. AAA is the highest rating possible. It reflects KBRA’s opinion that TriMet’s ability to repay payroll tax bonds is safe and stable, and signals that the agency is a considered a low-risk investment by financial experts. This comes after Moody’s also reaffirmed TriMet’s triple-A rating earlier this year for those same bonds.

Eide Bailly FY25 Financial Audit

Mr. Desue introduced Cara Fitzpatrick, Director of Financial Services, and Ahmad Gharaibeh of Eide Bailly, to present findings from the FY25 external audit. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Service Cuts Outreach

Mr. Desue reminded the Board that TriMet is conducting important outreach this month, which will lead up to and help inform the deep service cuts that are necessary in the coming years to resolve TriMet’s budget deficit. As of Monday, the TriMet service cuts webpage on trimet.org had been visited 128,000 times and the survey posted on the site had been completed 3,400 times. We are also hosting open houses to engage people about service priorities. Seventy eight people attended our first five online events with another 135 people attending our first three in-person open houses. Looking ahead, we have four more in-person events and one virtual event scheduled this month. Our Planning and Government Affairs staff have also met with numerous jurisdictional partners including mayors, county commissioners and JPACT to brief them on these service reductions. In-person events are also being held in each Board director’s district. These in-person events are great opportunities to talk directly with our planners and outreach staff. People can go to

trimet.org/servicecuts/ and weigh-in online. The survey is open through October 31. Staff will report on the initial findings from these outreach activities at the Board Retreat on November 12.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2025
- Resolution 25-10-50 – Authorizing a Contract Modification with PAVION Connect and Protect for Building Access Control Maintenance, Repair, and Installation and for Intrusion Detection Consultation Services
- Resolution 25-10-51 – Authorizing a Modification to the Contract with David Evans and Associates, Inc. for Design Services for the Beaverton and Oregon City Transit Centers Redesign Renovations

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

4. Resolutions

Resolution 25-10-52 – Amending TriMet’s Criminal Records Policy

General Manager Desue discussed Resolution 25-10-52. TriMet’s Human Resources policy on Criminal Records was adopted by Board resolution. Amendments to the policy also require Board action, thus the resolution before you today. This policy deals with TriMet’s legal requirements to conduct criminal records checks of job applicants and employees who operate vehicles that transport passengers. It also allows background checks of individuals who may have access to critical infrastructure or security-sensitive facilities or information, at TriMet. TriMet’s HR policy currently contains a lookback period, which considers a certain timeframe from the date of conviction, for different types and classes of offenses. If an applicant has a conviction within this lookback period, they may be disqualified from employment. The policy does not address circumstances where a job applicant or current employee is a registered sex offender, whose conviction date falls outside the lookback period. TriMet would like to retain discretion to consider the records and circumstances of registered sex offenders whose offense falls outside the lookback period. This Resolution would amend the policy to allow TriMet to decline a job applicant for an operator or other safety-sensitive position, if a criminal records check indicates the applicant is a registered sex offender within any jurisdiction, regardless of the conviction date.

Action: Director Graham moved for approval of Resolution 25-10-52. Director Wai seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution Honoring Director Wai

President Lewis brought forward a motion to adopt a resolution honoring Director Wai. It is with some sadness that I report Director Kathy Wai is resigning from the TriMet Board of Directors effective this month. She has notified the Governor, me, and General Manager Desue that she is moving out of her TriMet District and therefore will no longer be eligible to serve on the Board. We are not, however, going to let Director Wai’s seven plus years of service on this Board go unnoticed or uncommented upon. President Lewis then read the resolution honoring Kathy Wai for her service as a member of the TriMet Board of Directors. Director Flowers moved to approve the resolution and Director Kellogg seconded the motion. The resolution passed with unanimous approval.

General Manager Desue added his word of thanks to Director Wai for her service on the Board. Since joining us in 2018, Kathy has been a steady and principled voice, bringing both her professional background in community advocacy and her lived experience to every discussion. She reminded us, time and again, that our decisions must reflect the needs of the people who depend on TriMet most. Kathy also made history

here, becoming the youngest person at the time, and the first of Asian descent, to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. During her tenure, she helped guide this agency through the pandemic, supported major service and capital improvements, and pressed us to strengthen our commitment to the community. Serving on this Board is a volunteer role, and Kathy gave her time generously, with thoughtfulness and conviction. Director Wai, on behalf of TriMet's leadership, staff, and countless riders, thank you for your unwavering dedication to the communities we serve.

5. HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

President Lewis addressed the General Manager's FY26 Deliverables. For the benefit of the public, I want to say that the General Manager's Deliverables are the annual performance objectives that the Board uses to assess the General Manager's performance each year. As we usually do, we kicked off the process for setting these deliverables several months ago, with a work group comprised of several board members. I want to thank Director Flowers and Director Frisbee for participating in that work group with me. The work group gathered input from the General Manager as well as the entire board in setting the deliverables for the 2026 fiscal year. The full board then held a duly-noticed executive session on October 9 to discuss the comments and edits to the deliverables. I want to thank Vice President Kim for volunteering to take the comments and edits and incorporate them into a final draft. I then took that final draft and met with the General Manager last week to review it. The agreed-upon final version is now in your board packet and was also published on TriMet's website. Thank you to all of the Board for their assistance and participation. A copy of the FY26 General Manager Deliverables is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Hearing no further business, President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 12:06pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Falesha Thrash

Falesha Thrash, Board Administrator and recording secretary