

New Revenue Action Team Board Update

TriMet 2030 New Revenue Action Team

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Team leader Tara O'Brien

May 2026



New Revenue Strategy

- Align efforts to explore and assess new revenue options that are:
 - Politically viable
 - Publicly supported
- Prioritize and implement plan for success



Scope of TriMet's New Revenue Strategy


What it is:


- Builds on existing TriMet and partner efforts
- Aligns efforts internally to prioritize focus
- Evaluates and prioritizes most promising opportunities for ongoing, sustainable funding options
- Develops a plan for success in short and long term

What it is not:

- Pursuit of one-time funds
- Replacement for existing work of Business Development, Transit Oriented-Development/Real Property, or other cost-saving efforts

Highlights of Recent Actions to Push for New Revenue

 trimet

 trimet What are your thoughts about regional transportation priorities? How should state leaders address transportation funding challenges? 🗣️ 📝

If you support more funding for transit, you can share your thoughts at an Oregon Legislature Joint Committee on Transportation listening session this week.

Happy Valley
📅 Thursday, Sept. 26
🕒 5-7 p.m.
📍 Adrienne C. Nelson High School Theater
14897 SE Parklane Drive


Hillsboro
📅 Friday, Sept. 27
🕒 5-7 p.m.
📍 Hillsboro Civic Center
Shirley Huffman Auditorium
150 E. Main Street


You can also submit comments by email:
✉️ JCT.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

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TriMet New Revenue Activities

Month	Actions
Late 2025 - April	Build comprehensive list of revenue options
May	Evaluation and research to prioritize options
June	Bring needs and options to Governor's Vision Committee and Transit sub-committee Prioritize new revenue sources to pursue in short term: state and elsewhere Build case for the need, the message and the impact of <i>no</i> new revenue
July-August	Outreach to partners to build coalition for success
Fall	Launch Value of Transit messaging to support new revenue and the need for transit

Categories of New Revenue to Evaluate

State	New ongoing state funding in the 2027 Legislature
State	Consider new statutory authorities to raise our own revenue or where we could benefit from new revenue sources created or expanded by the state
Ballot Measure	Consider whether a ballot measure to support TriMet operations or capital needs could be successful within the next 3 years
Strategic	Identify and assess any revenue options within TriMet's control not yet pursued
Regional or Local Partnerships	Coordinate with local and regional partners on any new revenues that would require other governments to change policies for mutually beneficial outcomes

New Revenue Evaluation Criteria

- Potential revenue generated
- Predictability and stability
- Public acceptability
- Ease of implementation
- Political feasibility

Challenges

- **Concerns about affordability and new taxes or fees**
- **Impact of federal cuts and economy on State and other governments' revenue and budget challenges**
- **Ongoing funding vs. one-time funding**
- **Many existing revenue sources for transportation are restrictive**

Public Opinion on New Taxes and Fees

- Dec. 2025 Poll:
72%: Tax rates too high based on services received
- Sept. 2025 Poll:
60%: Amount paid in local taxes either an “extremely serious” or “very serious” problem, up from 46% in May 2024.

What do you think is the most important problem facing the Portland metro area today?

Response	April 2026	March 2025	October 2024	April 2024
Homelessness	33%	48%	50%	53%
Poor leadership/government management	19%	15%	10%	16%
Housing affordability	11%	12%	12%	9%
Taxes	11%	3%	2%	3%
Cost of living / Inflation	9%	4%	5%	4%
Safety / Crime / Lack of police presence	9%	12%	15%	20%
Drug use/addiction	7%	12%	19%	19%
Businesses leaving / Not supporting businesses	5%	4%		
Economy	4%	2%	2%	3%
Education / Schools	3%	2%	1%	3%
Roads / Infrastructure / Traffic	3%	3%	2%	2%
Jobs / Unemployment	2%	1%	1%	1%
Immigration	2%			
Need more social services	2%			

600 voters surveyed. Margin of error is ±4.0 percentage points; Percentages add up to more than 100 because some respondents named up to three issues as their top issue.

Source: DHM Research • [Get the data](#)



Metro Poll: Transportation recently low-ranking concern for Portland-area voters (Sept. 2025)

Issue	“Extremely” or “Very Serious” Problem			
	Spring 2022	Spring 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2025
Homelessness	97%	96%	93%	94%
Cost of Living	*	76%	75%	82%
Cost of Housing	*	77%	78%	79%
Garbage Dumped/Public Lands	83%	70%	65%	67%
Deteriorating Streets/Roads	64%	63%	*	65%
Growing Income Inequality	59%	*	*	62%
Impacts of Wildfires	68%	*	*	61%
Crime	81%	*	63%	60%
Climate Change	*	53%	54%	55%
Pollution – Rivers, Lakes, Streams	59%	*	*	54%
Loss of Natural Areas	46%	*	*	52%
Traffic	58%	43%	*	41%
Racism	*	47%	34%	34%
Extreme Weather	35%	*	*	30%
Lack of Convenient Public Transportation	23%	22%	21%	21%

Source: FM3 Research

Highlights of New Taxes and Fees

City of Portland	State, County or Regional
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PBOT Transportation Utility Fee• PBOT Street Damage Restoration Fee• Portland Water District rate increases• Parks Levy increases• Portland Arts Tax Reform• Portland Streaming Services Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measure 120 - Transportation Tax• PGE/Pacific Power rate increases• Clackamas County Public Safety Levy• Multnomah County Oregon Historical Society Levy• Washington County Vehicle Registration Fee• Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Bond

Opportunities

- Trust in TriMet as an agency
- Value of transit to support vulnerable communities
- TriMet seen as an affordable option as cost of living rises
- Governor's Transportation Vision Committee and 2027 session
- Tax reform discussions at state and local level



Takeaways

- Our likelihood for success depends on strong partnerships and continued public confidence in TriMet.
- The 2027 State Legislature remains a focus for new revenue
- Most decisions on new revenue are not ours alone to implement.

