

**HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2020**

Members Present:

Gabby Abou-Zeid
Adam Argo
Art Pearce
Dan Bower
Jan Campbell
Aaron Carleson
Mercedes Elizalde
Reza Farhoodi
Jodi Guetzloe Parker
Jarvez Hall
Dwight Brasear
Huy Ong
Deanna Palm
Sushmita Poddar
Mary Lou Ritter
Walter Robinson II
Commissioner Roy Rogers
Commissioner Paul Savas
Mariana Valenzuela
Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson
Coi Vu
Julie Wilcke
Kiley Wilson
Sara Wright

Public Comment

Columbia County: see letter posted on web page.

Committee Business

COVID-19 Response

21% reduction in TriMet services on April 5
Ask for social distancing on busses and Max – 10 to 15 passengers on buses
No longer taking cash fares
Decrease in HOP fares
Expecting a significant reduction in payroll tax due to unemployment
Propose that the committee direct staff to use one-time only, capital funds to make up for shortfalls in funding for ongoing operating programs.

Mercedes Elizalde: Have there been bus operator layoffs?

TriMet Staff: Not at this time. We need to keep operators onboard to make up for operators taking time

off for COVID leave and to add service where we're seeing overloads due to the social distancing guidelines.

Jodi Guetzloe-Parker: Have drivers been ill from Covid? And how are they being protected?

TriMet Staff via Chat: Only one operator has tested positive for COVID-19. That operator is now fully recovered and back at work.

Reza Farhoodi: I know of some hospitals that have seen service levels cut on all nearby lines, were some hospitals prioritized for access over others?

TriMet Staff: No. Most hospitals didn't receive a reduction in service. Legacy Good Samaritan did receive a reduction in service, but it's service levels remain high due to the fact that the bus line serving it is a Frequent Service line.

Mercedes Elizalde: Is Covid leave paid?

TriMet Staff: Yes, Federal Covid pay is 80 hours.

Jillian Detweiler: How has revenue from employer programs been impacted?

TriMet Staff: Some employers who buy passes for their employees, meaning the Universal Pass program, have asked for reduction/rebates in cost. TriMet has not decided yet how to address this. Monthly pass purchasers for April have been refunded. Asked to hold off on purchasing before purchasing next month. Asked Department of Environmental Quality to delay survey on how people commute.

Jillian Detweiler: How and where will TriMet be engaging public stakeholders on deciding how to spend new federal funds?

TriMet Staff: It has been a challenge to engage the public during Covid. No open house meetings during this time. With the service cuts we were unable to do outreach in the community, nor did we have time to. Regarding federal money, TriMet did/will receive federal CARES money to restore service as we open up, but it won't be spent immediately. It will likely not be enough to get us back to where we were. We will communicate with the public as best as we can.

Comm. Savas: Concerns about electric bus program.

TriMet Staff: We are hoping to keep the budget for electric busses intact. Our timeline for electric busses by 2040 remains.

Jillian Detweiler: Will 15M take us far enough to meet people who are in need of LIF fare and service restoration?

TriMet Staff: If we vote to use that 15M it doesn't mean we can't use electric bus funds if necessary. If we need to use the electric bus infrastructure funds, then we can and will.

Sushmita Poddar: People are getting impacted today. Because we are in the middle of a pandemic programs may have to shift by a few years to ensure that people are getting what they need now.

Jillian Detweiler: Are more service cuts on the horizon?

TriMet Staff: Not at this time.

Motion to use the one-time only capital funds (i.e., the “Triangle Funds”) funds to preserve the operating programs should STF funding come in less than projected.

Motion by Jillian Detweiler
Seconded by Marylou Ritter

Gabby: yes
Adam: yes
Aaron: yes
Dwight: yes
Jan: yes
Jillian: yes
Mercedes: yes
Reza: yes
Jodi: yes
Jarvez: yes
Huey: yes
Deanna: yes
Art: yes
Sushmita: yes
Marylou: yes
Comm. Rogers: no
Comm. Savas: yes
Mariana: yes
Comm. Vega Pederson: yes
Julie: yes
Kylie: yes
Sarah: yes
Walter: yes
Coi: yes

Jillian Detweiler: I do not support that the electric bus infrastructure would be the last money used at this time.

Sushmita Poddar: We should break this into two motions. Whether the funds will be used and using the funds at all.

Motion regarding to reserve electric bus funds as last place to be reduced when we need funds? Motion made and seconded.

Delay of vote until next month’s meeting to have a more nuanced conversation about electric bus funds. Carried to the next meeting.

Deanna Palm and Sushmita Poddar suggest a sooner meeting than a month. Suggestion of two weeks.