

TriMet HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee Meeting - June 28, 2024

Attendees:

- April Bertelsen (City of Portland, Bureau of Transportation)
- Adam Argo (Citizen Representative, TriMet Service District 4)
- Dan Bower (Director, Portland Streetcar Inc.)
- Jarvez Hall (East Metro Partnership, Co-Chair)
- Michael Morrow (Ratepayer, City of Happy Valley, Co-Chair)
- Mary Lou Ritter (Washington County Resident, Accessible Transportation Funds Advisory Committee Representative)
- Paul Savas (Clackamas County Commissioner)
- Phil Selinger (Citizen Representative, TriMet District 1)
- Marshall McGrady (IBEW Local 48)
- Jan Campbell (Committee on Accessible Transportation for TriMet, Pronouns: she/her)
- John Whitman (Ride Connection, Alternate for Julie Wilckie Pilmer)
- Dyami Valentine (Principal Transportation Planner, Washington County)
- Brandon Brezic (Central City Concern)
- Andrew Aebi (District 3, Southwest Portland and Washington County)
- Sushmita Podar (Community Representative, Washington County, PTAC Committee for ODOT, Pronouns: she/her)
- Aaron Carlson (Hillsboro Schools Foundation for Education)
- Sarah Iannarone (Executive Director, The Street Trust, Pronouns: she/her)
- Duncan Hoang (Metro Councilor, District 6, Pronouns: he/him/his)
- Tom Mills (TriMet Service Planning Director, Staff Lead)
- Commissioner Roy Rogers (Washington County Commissioner)
- Jamie Surface (Fare Policy and Program Coordinator, TriMet)
- Kittie Kong (Community Affairs Representative, TriMet)
- Justin Trubiani (TriMet)

Introduction:

The meeting began with Tom Mills introducing all committee members and alternates. Commissioner Roy Rogers had initial technical issues, which were resolved.

Agenda Overview:

The agenda included public comments, budget outlines, a sub-allocation method vote, and announcements. Tom reminded members the presentation and all chats are being recorded.

Public Comments:

No public comments were made.

Budget Outline and Timeline:

Tom reviewed the updated budget outline, highlighting the following points:

- Focus on service expansion and preservation, particularly due to flexibility in fund usage for service vs. capital projects.
- Allocation towards LIFT vehicles instead of fixed-route electric buses due to faster delivery timelines.
- Continued funding for the low-income fare program, student fare program, regional coordination program, and Portland Streetcar.
- Preservation of funds for TriMet's capital projects, like Better Bus Program, using general funds for flexibility.
- Updated Forward Together 1.0 system map shows frequent service expansions, projected for FY28, subject to operator shortages.

Key Discussions:

Commissioner Savas' Inquiry: Commissioner Savas requested clarification on the updated slides and asked for a comparison of eliminated services in the Forward Together plan. He also asked for a metric to show service changes in hours or coverage. Tom confirmed that detailed metrics can be provided.

Brandon Brezic's Question: Asked about the potential for electric LIFT vehicles in the future. Tom explained that electric vehicles of that size aren't available yet but promised further confirmation.

Fare Program Discussion: Jamie Surface provided an update on the high school and low-income fare programs, noting wide utilization across multiple school districts, including North Clackamas and Beaverton. Commissioner Rogers expressed concerns about Clackamas and Washington County students accessing the Portland Public Schools fare programs. Jamie reassured the committee that outreach efforts are improving, and multiple districts are now participating.

Transit Service Gaps: Commissioner Savas raised concerns about areas in Clackamas County and Happy Valley being underserved, emphasizing the need for services in these fast-growing areas. Tom responded that TriMet is in discussions to expand service in these regions.

Suballocation Vote for FY26-27:

Tom presented the revenue projections for the next two fiscal years, totaling \$72.8 million for FY27.

The committee discussed the suballocation method, with Clackamas and Washington Counties receiving allocations based on payroll contributions.

The motion to approve the suballocation method was made by Jan Campbell and seconded by Mary Lou Ritter.

The vote passed with 12 ayes, 2 abstentions (Commissioner Savas and Sushmita Podar).

Announcements:

1. Grant Solicitations:

Applications for STIF formula and discretionary funds will open in August and are due in January 2025. Competitive grants for capital improvements are also available. Commissioner Savas asked about inter-community funds. Tom explained that these are for long-distance transit services and may be an option for regional providers like Sandy.

2. Accessible Transportation Funds Advisory Committee (ATFAC) Updates:

Justin Trubiani presented the timeline for STIF population and human services fund applications. There will be \$22 million available for programs serving older adults and people with disabilities.

3. TriMet Committee Communication Survey:

Kittie Kong introduced an effort to standardize communication across TriMet's advisory committees and will send a survey to collect feedback.

4. Future Topics:

Maps showing transit service gains and losses, density, and transit deserts were requested by Commissioner Savas and Sarah Iannarone.

The committee also requested further updates on the school pass programs and electric LIFT vehicles.

Conclusion and Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Michael Morrow after confirming action items and summarizing the next steps.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2024.