



Minutes

Meeting:	TriMet Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting	Date:	April 27, 2022
		Time:	9:00 a.m.
Board Members Present:	Lori Irish Bauman Keith Edwards Ozzie Gonzalez LaVerne Lewis Linda Simmons Thomas Kim	Board Members Absent:	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.

President Simmons called the business meeting to order at 10:06 am.

1. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) – Director Edwards provided a summary of the April 20, 2022 CAT meeting. Items on the agenda included agency updates from General Manager Desue and COO Bonnie Todd; a report on CAT nominations; a presentation from Director of Facilities Maintenance, Karen Powell; and a safety and security update from Pat Williams, director of Security and Emergency Management. The committee also received reports from staff on issues such as fixed routes, service delivery and light rail. The next CAT meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2022.

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Kim provided an overview of the March 23, 2022 MPAC Meeting. The meeting was focused on only one item, the proposed RTP and MTIP amendments on the I-205 Tolling project. The next MPAC meeting will be held on April 27, 2022.

Reimagine Public Safety Advisory Committee (RPSAC) – Director Lewis provided an overview of the April 19, 2022 meeting. Items on the agenda included a security update, a discussion of the Community Based Mini Training Grant Proposals; a presentation from Sargent Aaron Sieczkowski from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office on the roles and responsibilities of the Transit Police on the system; and a high level update on all of The Reimagine Initiatives from Marissa Clarke. The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2022.

Transit Equity Advisory Committee (TEAC) – In Director Wai's absence John Gardner provided an overview of the April 12, 2022 meeting. Items on the agenda included updates on Service disruption for the Better Red project; FX Bus Operator Training; Access Transit Fare Relief Grants; TriMet Board Redistricting; and overview of TriMet's Climate Action plan. The bulk of the meeting focused on a discussion of the Fare Pilot Projects. The next meeting of TEAC is on May 10, 2022.

2. General Manager Report

COVID-19

Mr. Desue provided an update on Covid-19 at TriMet. He said masks are no longer required on board TriMet buses and trains. Once the federal mandate was lifted, TriMet immediately heard reactions from both sides, and recognized that there are strong feelings about this issue. He said any

rider who wants to continue masking for their safety or the safety of others, should feel welcome to do so. TriMet will continue to offer masks on board our vehicles. He added that within 24 hours of the federal ruling, Multnomah County's top health officer came out urging continued mask use while riding public transit, especially during longer trips. This plea was made as both TriMet and regional health officers reported a slight uptick in cases of the virus. Mr. Desue urged everyone to do what you feel is best to protect their health.

March 2022 Ridership

Mr. Desue provided an update on March ridership. He said TriMet provided 4.4 million rides this past March. System-wide ridership is up 27% over the same time last year. However, it is still down more than 46% overall from ridership levels before the pandemic. Frequent Service bus lines and weekend service on both bus and MAX continue to perform better – with ridership having recovered to about 65%, of pre-pandemic levels.

Operator Shortage/Hiring Update

Mr. Desue provided an update on hiring efforts. Recently TriMet announced its most aggressive hiring pitch for new bus operators: an improved starting pay of \$25.24 per hour and a \$7,500 hiring bonus. The announcement came just three weeks after the last hiring bonus increase. He said TriMet's hiring incentives are bringing in more applicants, but it's just not enough. The agency must hire 327 operators to return to pre-pandemic levels. While our current service levels are close to being met with the operators we have on staff, we are challenged to bring on more operators if we are to fully restore service and expand service in the future. He added that TriMet bus operators are excellent stewards of customer service first and foremost. There's no experience necessary to become a bus operator and training will be provided. He said anyone who is interested in becoming an operator can visit trimet.org/careers to learn about all of the opportunities that are available. TriMet is also hiring mechanics and for many other positions.

Executive Retirements

Mr. Desue announced the retirement of two members of the TriMet Executive Leadership team. Executive Director of Engineering and Construction, Steve Witter, and Dee Brookshire, Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services, have each announced plans to retire at the end of May. Mr. Desue acknowledged their service and commitment to this agency and for their contribution to making our regional transit system what it is today.

A Better Red Progress Report

Mr. Desue provided an update on the Better Red project. He said the first disruption required for the MAX Red Line Extension and Reliability Improvements Project went very well, wrapping up as scheduled with regular service resuming on Sunday, April 9. He thanked everyone from who stepped in to help with this project and help riders navigate it. Work continues the Better Red project with completion expected in the fall of 2024. The next required shutdown for the project is scheduled for late July.

Climate Action Plan Submitted

Mr. Desue said TriMet submitted its Climate Action Plan to the Federal Transit Administration as part of the FTA's "Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge." The plan charts TriMet's course in climate leadership and lays out the path forward on our march toward a zero-emissions bus fleet. It's available for review on the FTA's website, along with the climate action plans of peer transit agencies across the country. The plan can also be found at trimet.org/climateplan.

Employee Recognition

Mr. Desue recognized Rail Operator Kim Luper, of TriMet's amazing employees. Mr. Luper is the most highly-decorated operator at TriMet. Mr. Desue introduced COO, Bonnie Todd who provided an overview of Mr. Luper's accomplishments and presented him with his 40th TriMet Award. Mr.

Desue and members of the Board congratulated Mr. Luper and thanked him for his dedicated service.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2022
- Resolution Directing that the Reading of All Ordinances be by Title Only
- Resolution 22-04-18 -- Authorizing the Modification of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Portland for Design and Construction Management Services for the Division Transit Project
- Resolution 22-04-19 – Authorizing a Contract Modification with Reitmeier for Ordinary Repair or Maintenance and/or Minor Alteration HVAC Services
- Resolution 22-04-20 – Authorizing Contract Modifications with CBM Systems, LLC, Columbia Pressure Washing, LLC, and Relay Resources Enterprises for Custodial Goods and Services for TriMet Facilities and Transit Centers
- Resolution 22-04-21 – Authorizing Contracts with Columbia Pressure Washing, LLC, Damac and Associates Clean LLC, and G&L Janitorial LLC for Bus Shelter Cleaning Services

Action: Director Kim moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Director Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

4. **Resolutions**

Resolution 22-04-22 -- Authorizing a Contract with Siemens Mobility, Inc. for the Westside Blue Line LRV Substation Feeder Breaker Retrofit Project

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 22-04-22 authorizing a contract to upgrade and modernize the feeder breakers that support the Westside MAX Blue Line light rail system. The breakers are part of LRV substations, which are the main source of propulsion for the trains. The feeder breakers on the Westside MAX have been in use since the line began service and need to be retrofitted to maintain and ensure standards for state of good repair. This is a sole source contract. Siemens was the original manufacturer and remains the only firm that can provide the necessary upgrades in a cost-efficient manner. The proposed contract will retrofit 50 substation breakers over approximately three years. The total contract amount requested is for \$1.68 million and is included in the Maintenance of Way (MOW) Department's annual operating budget. Siemens' Tualatin facility is where the retrofit work will take place. The total employee count is 50, with 22% identifying with a minority group and 16% as female.

Action: Director Gonzalez moved approval of Resolution 22-04-22. Director Irish-Bauman seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 22-04-23 -- Authorizing a Contract with GILLIG LLC for Twenty-Four, Forty Foot, Zero-Emission Buses for Fixed-Route Service

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 22-04-23 authorizing TriMet's first bulk purchase of zero-emission, battery electric buses. He said the order will more than triple the size of current electric bus fleet and build on TriMet's experience with GILLIG's long-range battery electric buses. TriMet currently has five buses, which are serving riders on lines 6 and 20. TriMet selected the GILLIGs for this contract, after testing a number of zero-emission bus platforms. With TriMet already making the commitment to transition to all zero emissions buses by 2040, this contract helps build out TriMet's fleet. The GILLIG contract is a "State Cooperative Purchasing Contract," and as a member of the cooperative, TriMet is able to take advantage of pricing resulting from Washington State's RFP for zero emission buses, which was also awarded to GILLIG. Zero-emission, battery-electric buses currently cost about a million dollars each, roughly doubling what the agency pays for a new diesel bus. The proposed contract amount for the 24 buses, extended battery warranties and training is for \$26.67 million. Funding is available in TriMet's FY 22-23 budgets and includes a combination of federal and state grants, operating resources and possible bond proceeds. GILLIG manufactures all of its zero-emission buses at its facility in Livermore, California, where the workforce is 67.5%

minority and 9.4% female.

Action: Director Gonzalez moved approval of Resolution 22-04-23. Director Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 22-04-24 – Authorizing a Contract with Bretthauer Oil Company for Mobile R99 Renewable Hydrocarbon Diesel Fuel for TriMet’s LIFT and WES Vehicles

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 22-04-24 which seeks authorization for a contract that will allow TriMet to fuel LIFT paratransit and WES vehicles with R99 renewable diesel. TriMet transitioned all 700-plus buses in its fixed-route fleet to renewable diesel in December. Making this change at a relatively small cost – lowered the greenhouse gas emissions from TriMet’s fixed route bus fleet by 61%, compared to the biodiesel blend that TriMet has been using in buses, starting with LIFT, for the last 15 years. In addition, R99 offers reductions in long-term maintenance costs. LIFT buses and commuter rail vehicles for WES require “wet” fueling. Unlike fixed-route fleet, which uses onsite fueling tanks at three garages, LIFT and WES rely on a mobile fueling truck reporting to their facility, to fill each individual vehicle. TriMet issued a request for proposals for mobile R99 fueling, and Bretthauer emerged as the highest ranked proposer. The proposed contract is for \$15.1 million over a period of five years. The amount is included in the Transportation Operations budget for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2027. Bretthauer has 47 employees, 25.5% female and about 15% minority.

Action: Director Irish-Bauman moved approval of Resolution 22-04-24. Director Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 4-2 vote with Directors Gonzalez and Edwards opposed.

Resolution 22-04-25 – Authorizing a Contract with Eide Bailly, LLP for Independent Audit Services

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 22-04-25 authorizing a contract with Eide Bailly, LLP to perform independent audit services. Eide Bailly was selected through a competitive request for proposals. The \$1.2 million contract covers a 5-year term. The services are included in the Finance & Administrative Services Division’s FY 22 budget. For diversity, the firm’s workforce is 53% women and 14% minority. TriMet has audit work that must begin next month to meet strict deadlines for stakeholders.

Action: Director Lewis moved approval of Resolution 22-04-25. Director Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 22-04-26 – Authorizing Submission of Proposed Redistricting Map and Public Outreach Report to Oregon Secretary of State

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 22-04-26 authorizing TriMet to take the information and feedback received on the Board redistricting process and submit it, along with the proposed redistricting map, to the Oregon Secretary of State. Mr. Desue then introduced JC Vannatta, executive director of Public Affairs who gave a short presentation before the vote.

Action: Director Edwards moved approval of Resolution 22-04-26. Director Irish-Bauman seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 22-04-27 – Amend TriMet’s Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for Management and Staff Employees to Increase the Non-Elective Employer Contribution

Mr. Desue discussion Resolution 22-04-27 authorizing TriMet to increase the employer contribution to the defined contribution retirement plan. This is the plan that every TriMet employee automatically receives. They can elect to contribute a portion of the pre-tax earnings and TriMet contributes a percentage every month. Since 2003, when the plan was established, that amount has been set at 8%.

However, in an ongoing, agency-wide effort to attract and retain the best employees TriMet would like to increase that amount to 10%. Employees are vested and have access to the funds in their

retirement account after three years of employment. With Board approval, employees will see the increase take effect with their first paycheck in May.

Action: Director Gonzalez moved approval of Resolution 22-04-27. Director Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

5. Ordinances

Ordinance 366 – Adopting Service Changes and Revised Route Designations (Second Reading)

General Counsel Shelley Devine read Ordinance 366 in title only

Action: Director Irish-Bauman moved approval of Ordinance 366. Director Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

General Counsel Devine conducted a roll call vote

Director Edwards – Yes

Director Gonzalez - Yes

Director Irish-Bauman - Yes

Director Kim- Yes

Director Lewis – Yes

Director Simmons – Yes

Ordinance 367 – Adopting January 2022 Service Reductions and Revising Route Designations (First Reading and Public Hearing)

General Counsel Shelley Devine read the ordinance by title only.

Mr. Desue provided a brief overview of Ordinance 367. He said the ordinance deals directly with the adjustment TriMet made in January to reduced service by approximately 9%. Although the service reduction occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the result of the ongoing operator shortage. This ordinance allows for an extension of January's reduction, which was adopted as an emergency action. Mr. Desue introduced Director of Mobility Planning and Policy, Tom Mills and Director of Transit Equity, Inclusion and Community Affairs, John Gardner who discussed the service changes and the Title VI analysis.

President Simmons opened the public forum to hear testimony on Ordinance 367.

No attendees signed up to speak in the forum.

President Simmons adjourned the public forum.

No action was taken on Ordinance 367. It will proceed to the May 25, 2022 meeting for the second reading and vote.

Other Business & Adjournment

Hearing no further business, President Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberley Angove, recording secretary