



Minutes

Meeting:	TriMet Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting	Date:	May 24, 2023
		Time:	9:00 a.m.
Board Members Present:	Keith Edwards Ozzie Gonzalez LaVerne Lewis Linda Simmons Kathy Wai Lori Irish Bauman Thomas Kim	Board Members Absent:	

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 10:40 am.

1. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) – Director Edwards provided an overview of discussion items that took place at the May 17, 2023 CAT meeting. Items on the agenda included electing CAT officers, staff updates, upcoming June annual luncheon, addressing elevator issues with a pilot program, campaign to spread awareness of how to use UZURV for LIFT services and a report on the FY24 budget.

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Kim shared highlights from the April 26, 2023 MPAC meeting. The agenda consisted of an update from Metro on their 2040 Planning and Development Grants program as well as an update on the Regional Transportation Plan draft project list.

Transit Equity Advisory Committee (TEAC) – Director Wai provided an overview of the April 9, 2023 TEAC meeting. Items on the agenda included TriMet staff providing a report on the FY24 budget, presentation on the elevator pilot project and conducted a straw poll among present TEAC members to gauge opinions on the proposed fare increase.

Finance and Audit Committee (F&A) – Director Bauman provided a summary of the May 24, 2023 F&A meeting. The meeting agenda consisted of the first of three phases of the annual audit report from Eide Bailly, a preliminary report on a new approach to funding the Defined Benefit plans and an update on the FY24 budget.

2. General Manager Report

April 2023 Ridership

Mr. Desue provided an update on ridership for the month of April. TriMet provided about 4,884,690 trips in April. System-wide weekly ridership was up about 15% from this time last year. Which sits at about 62% of where we were at this time, pre-pandemic. April ridership was impacted by the three-week long disruption to MAX Blue, Green and Red lines for extensive work on “A Better Red.” During the shutdown, we completed work that will not only improve the Red Line but a number of other projects in the area, including replacing wooden ties and sections of track dated back to the opening of MAX. The work was completed on time and will increase reliability keeping our trains and customers moving.

Forward Together

Mr. Desue noted that TriMet’s budget for the coming Fiscal Year includes the first big package of transit service improvements to come out of the Forward Together service plan. The community helped TriMet shape the plan and the future of our bus service. Mr. Desue noted that improvements begin with the May service change, when more than 10 miles of Line 17 become Frequent Service. Five more Frequent Service bus lines are planned for the upcoming year. Frequent Service buses arrive every 15 minutes or more often most of the day, every day. Support for Frequent Service lines shows in our ridership. Mr. Desue detailed that in April for example, nearly 68% of all bus rides were taken on lines with Frequent Service and ridership on Frequent Service bus lines has returned to about 80% of pre-pandemic levels. Mr. Desue then introduced Director of Mobility Planning and Policy, Tom Mills to present upcoming plans from Forward Together along with updated timelines. A copy of the presentation can be found in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Summer Pass Program

Mr. Desue invited Director of Marketing and Business Development, Lonny Nielsen, to present on the 2023 Summer Pass Program. A copy of the presentation can be found in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Elevator Access Control Pilot

Mr. Desue provided details on an elevator access control pilot project that launches soon. He explained the goal of the project is to learn how we might curb unwanted and inappropriate use of TriMet elevators and improve the customer experience for riders who need to use them. The elevators are for transit use only, to get to and from MAX platforms. Too often people are misusing them and that can lead to damage that, in turn, leads to unplanned outages. For those in mobility devices or who are otherwise reliant on the elevators, an out of service elevator can block their trip. At the least, riding in a dirty elevator that has been used for something other than getting between levels is not a good experience. Elevators are vital for many riders, including people with disabilities, seniors and people traveling with small children. Mr. Desue stated that starting June 12, we will begin a four-week pilot at the Hollywood Transit Center. Accessing the elevators will require tapping a valid Hop card, Hop ticket, mobile wallet or contactless payment card at a card reader installed at the elevator. Mr. Desue clarified that there will be no charge for accessing the elevator. Riders, whether using the elevator or not, still need to tap the Hop card reader to pay their fare. This pilot will only be conducted at the Hollywood Transit Center and we will have security staff present throughout the project to help anyone who needs assistance. TriMet will collect data throughout

the project that will be crucial to informing our decision on what happens next. All this, as we work to increase security on our transit system, to improve elevator reliability for those riders who rely on them and improve the experience of those customers accessing our transit system.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for April 26, 2023
- Approval of a Resolution directing that the reading of all ordinances be by title only.
- Resolution 23-05-17 – Updating Registered Agent Designation and Address to One Main Place

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

4. **Contract Resolutions**

Resolution 23-05-18 – Authorizing a Contract with Cochran, Inc. (Cochran) for On-Call Electrical, Infrared Thermal Scanning and Arc Flash Program Services

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 23-05-18. In December 2020, the Board approved a five-year contract with Cochran to perform these on-call services. Since then, TriMet has adopted a program required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which helps identify electrical safety risks and ensure regulatory compliance. That program, which helps detect what are known as “Arc flash hazards,” a term used in the title of the resolution, called for a complete inventory of the electrical components across TriMet’s facilities. The inventory conducted by the Arc Flash team revealed that many of the non-inventoried electrical assets across TriMet facilities require replacement. Those that are not replaced will require additional monitoring and maintenance. All of this adds up to a significant amount of electrical work that now must be addressed by the on-call contractor. With resources from Cochran’s 2020 contract exhausted, we come before the Board to request authorization of a new contract. It is resulting from a new procurement, to which Cochran was the only firm to respond. However, the firm is experienced, reputable and knows TriMet’s electrical system better than any other contractor in the area. Their Best and Final Offer of \$9.3 million came in well below TriMet’s independent cost estimate for the five-year term. With change orders included, the contract will total \$10.7 million. Cochran is a certified Women’s Business Enterprise. The firm has 740 employees, about 17% are minorities and more than 12% are female. And TriMet will work with them to maximize the use of DBE subs in any subcontracting that is performed.

Action: Director Edwards moved for approval of Resolution 23-05-18. Director Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 23-05-19 – Authorizing a Contract with Mercer Health and Benefits LLC (Mercer) for Benefits Consulting Services

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 23-05-19. While TriMet staff oversee the design and administration of TriMet’s benefit plans, they are supported and assisted by external consultants with specialized benefits expertise. TriMet’s current contract with Mercer expires at the end of the month. The firm once again emerged as the highest scoring proposer, to the RFP that was issued earlier this year. The proposed contract of \$1.4 million reflects Mercer’s Best and Final Offer for the five-year term. The contract amount is included in the Labor Relations and Human Resources Budget for FY24. Mercer has nearly 6200 employees. About 21% identify as minorities and 60% as female.

Action: Director Kim moved for approval of Resolution 23-05-19. Director Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 23-05-20 – Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with C-TRAN Regarding Participation in the Hop Fastpass System

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 23-05-20. Our Hop Fastpass contactless payment system has raised the bar for transit fare payment since it launched in July 2017. Not only does the system work for you, ensuring that you'll never pay more than you should to ride transit, it also makes riding easier and more convenient, providing seamless transfers between TriMet, Portland Streetcar and our neighbors to the north, C-TRAN. The initial IGA between TriMet and C-TRAN, which began in 2014, has expired. C-TRAN's Board has approved a new IGA, authorizing the next five year term, plus five-year extensions. The core terms have remained the same, with adjustments to reflect the more mature Hop system that exists today. This resolution is revenue neutral, as revenue sharing within the agreement accounts for the cost of each agency's service and proportional use.

Action: Director Bauman moved for approval of Resolution 23-05-20. Director Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

5. Ordinances

Ordinance 374 – Fare Increase Ordinance (Second Reading)

General Counsel Devine read Ordinance No. 374 by Title Only.

Mr. Desue provided an overview of Ordinance 374. He expressed thanks to all of the voices heard this morning about the proposed fare increase. Mr. Desue also shared his gratitude for having an engaged public, one that cares about TriMet and our future. TriMet's mission is to "connect people with valued mobility options that are safe, convenient, reliable, accessible and welcoming for all." Our work to fulfill this mission is outlined in TriMet's Business plan and the Business Plan is supported by the Budget. Our Budget for the next fiscal year, includes a fare increase that will help fund the first big package of improvements from Forward Together. These are improvements to provide our riders, especially those with low and limited incomes, better connections for more people to reach more jobs and places throughout our region. It calls for buses arriving more often and at earlier and later times in the day. It is an ambitious plan that seeks to increase transit service in our district by more than 30% in the years ahead. We are set to embark on this plan at a critical point, given TriMet's ongoing recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation and other rising costs associated with operating our system. That is a huge mountain to summit, and as the appointed stewards of TriMet's finances, the Board's job to address this challenge has not been an easy one. Mr. Desue pointed out that the Board's decisions today will have tremendous impact, not only on the future of TriMet, but on those who rely on our transit service in the Portland metro region. He then invited Executive Director of Finance and Administrative Services, Nancy Young-Oliver and Chief IDEA Officer John Gardner, to give a final look at what is included in the ordinance, in regard to the fare increase and the mitigations that TriMet will put into place, should the Board adopt the fare increase proposal. Each board member had extensive comments before casting their vote on this ordinance. A copy of the presentation as well as a recording of the fare proposal discussion and vote can be found in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

A roll call vote was conducted by General Counsel Devine.

Director Gonzalez – yes
Director Edwards – yes
Director Lewis – yes
Director Simmons – yes
Director Bauman – yes
Director Kim – yes
Director Wai – no

Ordinance 374 passed with six votes in favor and one vote opposed.

6. **Budget Resolution**

Resolution 23-05-21 – Adopting the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Appropriating Funds

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 23-05-21. Oregon law requires TriMet’s Board of Directors to adopt a balanced budget before the start of our next fiscal year. Fiscal Year 24 starts on July 1st; that’s just 38 days away. TriMet’s proposed budget includes:

- \$820 million in day-to-day operating costs.
- More than \$328 million in capital and operating projects.
- The first of package or service improvements coming out of our Forward Together Service Concept.
- Substantial completion of the “Better Red” MAX project, and the start of new capital projects, including TriMet’s portion of HollywoodHUB.
- Continued support for riders with low incomes to help them access transit for less, and in some cases, at no cost, through our Access Transit partnerships.
- Totals \$1.93 billion.

The proposed budget continues efforts to restore our workforce, increase ridership and maintain a transit system that is safe, welcoming and accessible to all. It does all of this, while maintaining the robust transit service that exists across our 533-square mile district. The Budget was drafted to assume adoption of the fare increase, with the first funds anticipated when the increase takes effect on January 1, 2024. It has been approved by Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission (TSCC), which found TriMet’s estimate to be reasonable and in compliance with Budget Law. Adjustments made since the TSCC review fall within legally allowable limits.

Action: Director Gonzalez moved for approval of Resolution 23-05-21. Director Kim seconded the motion. Director Wai was absent for the vote. The motion passed with six votes in favor.

7. **Other Business & Adjournment**

Hearing no further business, President Simmons adjourned the meeting at 1:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Falesha Thrash

Falesha Thrash, recording secretary