

**HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes September 28, 2018**

Members present include:

Barbara Bernstein

Jan Campbell

Aaron Carleson

Chris Carpenter

Ben Johnson

Diane McKeel

Huy Ong

Art Pearce

Paul Savas

Ben Johnson

**Public Comment**

No public comment provided.

**Discussion**

Paul Savas – What is the unmet need with regards to Youth Pass? Was there a level of service analysis done as requested? What are the current needs for service? Geographically, Clackamas County has a considerable amount of area without service.

Barbara Bernstein – Can Ride Connection talk about the people they serve?

Julie Wilcke – We focus on people who find it difficult to ride a fixed route bus, but don't qualify for the ADA complementary service provided by their public transit provider. For some people, the driver is the only person the customer sees that week. Many people are isolated. Our service provides independence for our customers. We also take individuals to life sustaining treatment (e.g., cancer treatment, dialysis, etc.).

Art Pearce – Youth fare should be focused on low-income youth. How do we apply equity? We are spreading out the 1% evenly, which is equality, but not equity.

Aaron Carleson – I've been reviewing the notes and submitted testimony. There is a lack of service in areas in Washington and Clackamas counties. Companies say they don't have TriMet service. Three of four high schools in Hillsboro don't have TriMet service. I am still focused on adding to service. If there are more funds found, I think they should go towards more service.

Huy Ong – Question: Does the existing \$170,000 for David Douglas and Parkrose High schools that TriMet pays towards passes go away?

Bernie Bottomly – Yes. It is replaced by the new Youth Pass program funded by HB 2017.

Huy Ong – Under this model, there would be fewer students receiving the funding. There will be 700 fewer students receiving a pass.

Bernie Bottomly – We took the number of students on the free and reduced lunch program and estimated the percent of funds each school would receive if all the schools applied for funding. But we don't know how many would apply. We would have a first and second round of applications for the funding.

Huy Ong – At David Douglas High School, 70% of the students are on free and reduced lunch.

Paul Savas – Schools in Clackamas County aren't even aware of this program.

Diane McKeel – There is a rural portion of Multnomah County, and I don't if those schools are on a program.

Bernie Bottomly – Portland Public Schools, David Douglas High School, and Parkrose High School are the only schools/district that are on a program.

Huy Ong – We would be happy to help organize at other schools. They need people to organize in order to know about and apply for the funds.

Art Pearce – What are the next steps since there is no quorum.

Bernie Bottomly – We will present this process to the Board.

Huy Ong – Is there a process for a minority report?

Aaron Carleson – Isn't there already an opportunity to make a case at the TriMet Board?

Bernie Bottomly – The committee's by-laws say we try to find consensus. What I've heard is concern about asking the TriMet Board to find money for youth fares, expanded service to new areas, and elderly and disabled transportation. Should we prioritize?

Art Pearce – We didn't supplement you fares beyond what was required, so yes we should prioritize.

Paul Savas – Regional Coordination is a concern for us and it is an element of coverage. We need to do a level of service analysis.

Prioritize youth fares above other concerns in a communication to the TriMet Board

- 6 in favor
- 9 opposed

Bernie Bottomly: Would the committee be comfortable forwarding a communication to the TriMet Board that equally addresses the following issues:

- More funding for regional coordination
- More funding for transit coverage
- More funding for elderly and disabled transportation
- More funding for Youth Pass
- Funding for a level of service analysis

16 in favor – unanimous approval

Julie Wilcke – Wordsmithing – use “human services transportation” instead of “elderly and disabled transportation” in the communication.

Bernie Bottomly – What kind of information needs to be provided to characterize the issue for the Board of Directors?

Huy Ong – People need to hear that it will be a reduction in passes at David Douglas High School – folks who are representative.

Art Pearce – You need to roll out the program with an equity lens instead of an equality lens. Target the program to the equity areas.

Should the program be available only in the equity areas?

16 in favor – unanimous approval

Paul Savas – The program is not just about getting kids to and from school, but also to and from school activities.

Art Pearce – Provide emphasis in the communities that staff work with partners to target it towards the high schools located in the equity areas or the schools with the highest percentage of free and reduced lunch students.

16 in favor – unanimous approval