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TriMet Reimagine Public Safety Advisory Committee – Virtual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 3:30pm – 5:00pm

Additional Panelists Present	Committee Members Present	Committee Members Not Present
Amparo, Agosto - Coordinator, Senior, Community Engagement Programs, TriMet	Ray Atkinson - Transportation Systems Analyst, Clackamas Community College	Scott Brumitt - Residential Services Manager, Northwest Housing Alternatives
Marissa Clarke - Coordinator, Senior, Community Engagement Programs, TriMet	Jan Campbell - Board President, Disability Rights Oregon	Cesar Tapia-Chavez - Educational Access Program Manager, Latino Network
Leah Drebin - Multnomah County Public/Behavior Health Reimagine Community Coordinator	Frederick Casey - Vice President, ATU757	Mahesh Rao Udata - Community Member
John Gardner - Director, Equity, Inclusion & Community Affairs, TriMet	Jonath Colon - Deputy Director, Centro Cultural	
Dr. LaVerne Lewis - TriMet Board of Directors	Lee Helfend - Organizing Director, OPAL	
Sgt. Aaron Sieczkowski - Multnomah County Sheriff's Office	Adam Jenkins - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	
Jessica Stanton - Global Communications Facilitator	Annadiana Johnson - Committee on Accessible Transportation Member	
Pat Williams - Director, Security and Emergency Management, TriMet	Zach Lindahl - WACO chamber of commerce- for Nansi Lopez	
Andrew Wilson - Executive Director, Safety & Security Division, TriMet	Joseph McCleary - Outreach Worker, Homeplate Youth Services	
	Jairo Rios-Campos - Recreation Manager, City of Fairview (PlayEast)	
	Celess Roman - Resource & School Outreach Manager, Clackamas Service Center	
	Wendy Sell - Service Coordinator, Lifeworks NW	
	Lonnie Silva - Housing Program Supervisor, Urban League of Portland	
	Kasi Woidyla - Marketing Communications Director, Virginia Garcia Memorial	

Welcome, Introductions and Approval of the Minutes

Marissa Clarke opened the meeting at 3:33 pm, advising it would be recorded, and welcomed the group. Members introduced themselves. Dr. LaVerne Lewis asked for discussion on the March Minutes; hearing none, Celess Roman moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Jonath Colon, and the Minutes were accepted without changes. Wendy Sell read the committee's *Member Engagement Support* information. Marissa summarized the Agenda, and stated a change in nomenclature from *Crisis Support Team* to *Service Outreach & Referral Team (SORT)*. She reminded listeners of the Public Comment opportunity. Marissa reviewed the work of the committee as shown on the timeline slides.

Safety & Security update

Pat Williams provided details on notable incidents occurring in March, including significant increase in smoking of unidentified substances on trains; two cases in the District Attorney's office (one being held, one indictment); four stabbings in Multnomah County; and one in Washington County. He mentioned the shortage of available Public Defenders.

- Kasi Woidyla asked about conditions of the victims, which are unknown due to HIPAA regulations.

Request for Proposals Update

John Gardner thanked the applicants, as well as the two groups of volunteers who have been or will be scoring the proposals. Applications have been received for all but two areas (Trauma Informed Care and Resource Referral Approaches); community groups doing work in these areas will be approached. Celess added that proposals are expected to be reviewed in the next month, with training contracts established in May, and training proposals being built out in the following months.

Transit Police Presentation

Sergeant Aaron Sieczkowski offered information about TriMet's collaboration with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, established in April of 2020. He spoke to the department's mission and vision and other partner agencies (Beaverton, Hillsboro and Gresham Polices Departments, Clackamas Co. Sheriff's Office and the Port of Portland). Andrew Wilson concurred that this has proved to be a strong and successful partnership. Special Units include K-9 Explosives, Detectives, Bike Team and HOPE Team, made up of deputies trains to work with vulnerable populations.



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Transit Police Presentation, continued

Sgt. Sieczkowski explained Crisis Intervention Training (CIT – Learning to meet people where they are), Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist (CCIS – more in-depth mental health training) and Transformational Shifts through Training (a 12-week course on equity and inclusion starting June 1), and shared the following data points:

TriMet Calls for Service

- Multnomah Co. – 6,439
- Washington Co. – 1,647
- Clackamas Co. – 574

Top Five Call Types

- Welfare Check
- Unwanted Subject
- Suspicious Activity
- Assist
- Disturbance

There was a lengthy discussion with the committee.

- Lee Helfend asked about the depth of change due to a reckoning with past practice; Aaron replied that he has seen a broader understanding of policing in media and culture, and many new policies to build trust and increase compassion. Marissa added that the MCSO has invested in a new position to address social concerns.
- Joe McCleary asked how agencies could participate and use the tools at hand; Aaron encouraged understanding what each party can and can't do, sharing options and focusing on taking action.
- Jan Campbell requested an offline conversation about policing and people with disabilities and chronic conditions.
- Lonnie Silva voiced a hope that we all will participate in the changes that must happen to ensure the BIPOC community is truly heard, not just given lip service; Aaron shared that in his 11 years on the job, he has seen some transition from old ways, but that with resilience and humility we can expand communication and do better.
- Jessica asked if Aaron felt supported in his work and if the committee could help the Transit Police; Aaron praised the positive backing of TriMet and the DA, and stated that he is committed to continuing to grow and learn.

Andrew thanked Aaron for the presentation, his introspection and commitment, and encouraged the group to sign up for Transit Police ride-alongs by contacting jessy.brown@mcsou.us (requires background check and wearing a ballistic vest).

Advisory Committee Presentation

Marissa noted that there had been no Public Comment sign-ups, so that time would be available to high-level overview of progress on Reimagine Initiatives. She encouraged the attendees to speak up about which of the focus areas they would like to know more about. There are 24 initiatives divided into the five following focus areas: 3 in Training; 7 in System Presence; 2 in Technology; 6 in Infrastructure; and 6 in Communications. These are further divided into three overarching areas of focus: Training for TriMet employees; increased unarmed presence; and Crisis intervention teams).

These initiatives are assigned to internal staff in multiple departments stretched across nine divisions, as well as being addressed by the Reimagine Public Safety Advisory Committee. There has been much progress, with 2 of 3 Training, 3 of 7 System Presence, 2 of 2 Technology, 3 of 6 Infrastructure and 2 of 6 Communication efforts underway or completed.

Marissa highlighted the work being accomplished by Leah Drebin and the tangible benefits of the Reimagine Infrastructure lighting projects.

- Ray asked which three Transit Centers would be improved; Marissa shared that improvements at Parkrose, Gresham and Gateway are using CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) and Safe Growth principles and providing lessons learned that will be invaluable for future projects.
- Pat commented that business owners are grateful for repaired lights, and that camera upgrades are in process.
- Ray expressed an interest in knowing more about the regional pedestrian plans, prioritized ranking and other elements in areas of focus 5.3-5.6. Marissa will make this a committee conversation topic in the future months.
- Pat described the way these initiatives would allow TriMet to adopt design criteria across the system.
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Closing Remarks

Jessica and Marissa discussed the next steps in the process, with limited numbers of topics to allow for deeper discussion. Marissa thanked the group and reminded everyone the next meeting will be May 17, 2022 at 3:30 via Zoom.