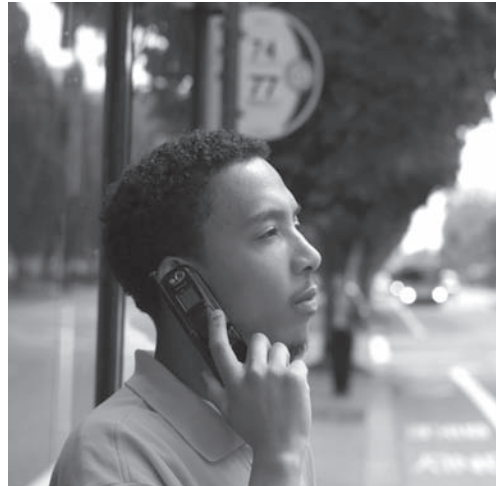


# to work

A Commuting Resource for Employers

Fall 2005

## Get bus and MAX arrival info by phone



**Transit Tracker™**  
503-238-RIDE

With TriMet's Transit Tracker™, you can find out exactly when your bus or MAX is coming, right over the phone. You'll get an up-to-the-minute arrival countdown, plus we'll tell you if any delays or detours are in effect. Knowing when your ride is coming,

you can relax or do something else with your time: Grab a cup of coffee, run another errand or finish one more project. Just call 503-238-RIDE (7433) and enter your Stop ID number, or follow the easy voice prompts to select your stop.

### Do you know your Stop ID number?

Each bus stop and MAX station has its own Stop ID number. You can use this number to skip directly to the arrival countdown when you call 503-238-RIDE. You can look up a Stop ID online at [trimet.org/transittracker](http://trimet.org/transittracker). This fall, we'll add Stop ID numbers on the street at transit centers, MAX stations and most stops along Frequent Service bus lines.

Transit Tracker is also available on the Web at [trimet.org](http://trimet.org), on your web-enabled cell phone at [trimet.org/wap](http://trimet.org/wap) or on your handheld/PDA at [trimet.org/pda](http://trimet.org/pda).

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**TriMet**  
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Portland OR 97202

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# Service adjustments begin September 4

If you ride MAX or one of the bus lines listed below, your trips may be affected by schedule and route adjustments starting Sunday, September 4.

- MAX Red Line will provide later evening service for airport travelers.
- On some bus routes, there will be less-frequent service in the early mornings and late at night.



Please visit [trimet.org](http://trimet.org) to check the updated schedules, or pick up a new schedule brochure on board, at TriMet's Ticket Office at Pioneer Courthouse Square, or at area Fred Meyer, Safeway and most Albertsons stores.

MAX Blue, Red & Yellow lines	55-Hamilton
4-Division	56-Scholls Ferry Rd
4-Fessenden	59-Walker/Park Way
8-Jackson Park	60-Leahy Rd
8-NE 15th Ave	63-Washington Park
16-Front Ave	74-Lloyd District/Southeast
17-Holgate	80-Kane Rd/Troutdale Rd
17-NW 21st Ave/St Helens Rd	81-Kane Rd/257th Ave
18-Hillside	84-Kelso/Boring
19-Glisan	85-Swan Island
19-Woodstock	86-Alderwood
34-River Rd	87-Airport Way/181st Ave
36-South Shore	92-South Beaverton Express
37-North Shore	95-Tigard/I-5 Express
41-Tacoma	154-Willamette
47-Baseline/Evergreen	155-Sunnyside
51-Vista	156-Mather Rd
54-Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy	157-Happy Valley

# Local workplaces named best for commuters

Fourteen Portland-area companies have been named "Best Workplaces for Commuters." The federal Department of Transportation and the EPA sponsor the recognition, which is ongoing; businesses can apply online anytime.

To find out if your workplace qualifies, visit [ergweb.com/projects/ccli/enroll/doiqualify.htm](http://ergweb.com/projects/ccli/enroll/doiqualify.htm). Criteria include participation in transit subsidies and an Emergency Ride Home program. TriMet can help; contact us using the info listed on the back page.

Portland-area Best Workplaces for Commuters (so far):

- Ashforth Pacific, Inc.
- Doubletree Lloyd Center Hotel
- Flexcar
- Hahn and Associates, Inc.
- Intel Corporation
- Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Northwest
- Metro
- Nike, Inc.
- Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory
- Providence Health System
- SAFECO Corporation
- Trexler Climate + Energy Services, Inc.
- Verizon
- WebTrends Inc.

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## How it works

Transit Tracker is more reliable than a schedule because it's based on the actual location of your bus or train. Every TriMet bus is equipped with a transmitter that allows continuous satellite tracking with an accuracy of about 30 feet. For MAX, sensors embedded in the tracks record the speed of each train and the time it passes the sensor.

# Fares increase September 1

Effective September 1, 2005	2-Hour Tickets*		Monthly Pass	Annual Pass
	1 Ticket	10 Tickets		
Adult • All Zones	\$1.80	\$18.00	\$66.00	\$726.00
Adult • 2 Zones	\$1.50	\$15.00	\$55.00	\$605.00
Adult • 1 Zone	\$1.50	\$14.50	—	—
Honored Citizen All Zones	\$0.70	\$ 7.00	\$19.00	\$209.00
Youth/Student All Zones	\$1.20	\$12.00	\$19.00	—
LIFT Paratransit All Zones	\$1.45	\$14.50	\$38.00	\$456.00
	All-Day Ticket			
All Riders All Zones	\$3.75	—	—	—

\* Validated tickets are good for two hours; transfer receipts are valid for at least one hour on weekdays, two hours on weekends.

Starting Thursday, September 1, you'll pay a little more to ride buses, MAX and Portland Streetcar. Most fares will increase 10 cents: 5 cents for inflation and an additional 5 cents to help cover rising fuel costs.

Like everyone who drives, TriMet is coping with record-high fuel prices. Last July, we budgeted \$1.02 per gallon for fuel. Since then the

average price of diesel rose to \$1.55 per gallon. This is the main reason for fares going up.

Bus maintenance crews have already boosted fuel mileage dramatically by adjusting alignment, transmission and tire pressure, and operators have reduced idling time to conserve fuel while waiting at transit centers.

## What this means for you

Starting Thursday, September 1:

- Most single fares will increase 10 cents.
- An All-Day Ticket will cost 25 cents more.
- Adult Monthly Passes will increase \$4.
- Honored Citizen and Youth/Student passes will increase \$2.

# Pretax deduction makes good sense

If your employees use TriMet passes, why not set them up to buy passes pretax? With TriMet fares increasing on September 1, pretax deduction makes more sense than ever. It lowers employees' taxable earnings—so it also lowers the FICA and unemployment taxes your business pays. (See the chart below.) You may be able to do this quickly and easily through your payroll-services provider or through your own in-house payroll process. Here's an example:

Employee's annual salary	Employee's annual tax savings*	Employer's annual tax savings per employee*
\$15,000–30,000	\$210–250	\$79
More than \$30,000	\$250–329	\$55

\*Based on the unsubsidized cost of a TriMet annual pass at \$726, and assuming the employer pays an average of 7.65% FICA and 3.3 percent unemployment insurance tax. Actual savings will vary depending on income tax brackets and rates.

## TriMet: cheaper than driving

For many metro-area commuters, going by TriMet or by car costs about the same. But when your employees purchase TriMet passes with pretax dollars, buses and MAX offer an instant cost advantage over car commuting. The tax savings likely will offset about 30 percent of their commute costs—a deal that only gets sweeter, compared to driving, as the price of gas rises.

## Subsidies: better than a raise

If you give employees a TriMet subsidy (that is, pay all or part of the price of TriMet passes) instead of the same amount as a salary increase, you and your employees get more “bang for the buck.” How so? Employee savings—and employees' perceived value of your subsidy—increase as gas prices rise. Subsidies offer the same payroll-tax savings as pretax deductions, and Oregon's Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC, fondly known as “Betsy”) allows businesses a 35 percent tax savings on the subsidized amount. (You can find more information about BETC at [egov.oregon.gov/energy](http://egov.oregon.gov/energy); click the “Business Energy Tax Credit” link in the far right column.) Consult your company's tax advisor about how these tax benefits may apply to your organization.



## Let us help

With both monthly and annual transit-pass programs, TriMet makes it easy to offer your employees a pretax benefit. It just might be one of the best investments you make in your company's future. Plus, we can help with a host of other transportation programs and other services. Contact your TriMet marketing representative today to learn more—or call 503-962-7670, or email [employerprograms@trimet.org](mailto:employerprograms@trimet.org).

## New collectible posters are here



Whether it's hiking our region's parks, buying fresh produce at farmers' markets, heading out

of town for a vacation by rail or plane, attending a theater performance or just relaxing at one of our innumerable coffee bars, TriMet helps you find the things you like to do. For our 2005 collectible poster series, Portland artist Don Bishop created colorful depictions of our region's bountiful recreational choices—all of which are accessible by transit.

This is the third year for TriMet's poster series, fast becoming a Portland-area tradition. Each year we commission a prominent local artist to design posters that illustrate the unique character of our region.

Bishop used oil and acrylic paints in a hybrid of the tonalist and impressionist styles. The 24" x 36" posters make great gifts, as well as handsome additions to your own home or office.

The posters are available for \$20 each online at [trimet.org](http://trimet.org) or from TriMet's ticket office at Pioneer Courthouse Square (701 SW 6th Ave.). Buy all five posters and save \$20!

## Take TriMet to rare art exhibit

In October, Portland residents can view works of art never before seen outside of Germany. The Portland Art Museum hosts the spectacular Hesse exhibit from October 29, 2005 to March 19, 2006—and it's sure to draw crowds.

The Hesse exhibit showcases the finest art from the Hesse family castles and museums. These include several German national treasures such as the world-



famous Holbein Madonna, one of the masterpieces of Renaissance art.

Organized exclusively by the Portland Art Museum in association with the Hesse family,

the exhibition presents more than 400 treasures such as Baroque silver and furniture, a royal coach and gilded throne, German Romantic paintings, extraordinary portraits by Winterhalter, Fabergé pieces, and many classical antiquities.

This is a collection never before seen in its entirety. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Visit [portlandartmuseum.org](http://portlandartmuseum.org) for more information—and don't forget to plan your trip at [trimet.org](http://trimet.org).

## Transportation management associations: here to help

Transportation management associations (TMAs) are groups organized to help employees use commute alternatives. Generally they receive support from local employers. TriMet recommends all Transportation Coordinators get involved with their local TMAs as a way to learn about commute alternatives in their area and discover new ways to promote them.

### Clackamas Regional Center

[crc-tma.com](http://crc-tma.com)

Wilda Parks, 503-654-7777

### Gresham Regional Center

[gresham.org/transit.htm](http://gresham.org/transit.htm)

Kathy Everett, 503-665-3827

### Lloyd District

[ldtma.com](http://ldtma.com)

Rick Williams, 503-236-6441

### Swan Island

[swanislandtma.org](http://swanislandtma.org)

Lenny Anderson, 503-745-6563

### Troutdale

Allyson Thompson, 503-669-7473

### Westside Transportation Alliance

[wta-tma.org](http://wta-tma.org)

Dan Aberg, 503-617-4844

## Contact TriMet

Customer assistance and trip planning .....	503-238-RIDE TTY 503-238-5811 <a href="http://trimet.org">trimet.org</a>
Employer programs .....	503-962-7670
Carpool/vanpool programs .....	503-962-2433
Carpool matching .....	<a href="http://carpoolmatchnw.org">carpoolmatchnw.org</a> 503-CAR-POOL
Info for people with disabilities .....	503-962-2455
Bikes on TriMet .....	503-962-7644

*To Work* is published quarterly by the TriMet Marketing Department.  
For more information about employer transportation programs, contact TriMet Marketing:

503-962-7670 • [employerprograms@trimet.org](mailto:employerprograms@trimet.org) • FAX 503-962-6469



See where it takes you.