



to work

A Commuting Resource for Employers

Spring 2007

Take a look around downtown

There's more after 4...

Here's a familiar routine: Every day you head downtown to the same building, same floor,

The Next BIG THING DOWNTOWN

same cubicle; then you go home. It's no one's fault, really. But if you haven't looked around lately, how do you know what you've missed?

How about top-drawer shopping, dining and lodging, and a full docket of cultural and entertainment events?

Part of the excitement of downtown is that it's ever-changing and growing. More than a half-billion dollars in improvements, including a sparkling renovation to Macy's at Meier & Frank Square, the Nines Hotel, a new downtown park, and more, will make downtown shine for years to come.

TriMet is a big part of those plans, with major renovations to the Transit Mall,

including adding a MAX line from Union Station to Portland State University downtown. Certain blocks may be temporarily closed to auto traffic, but businesses along 5th and 6th avenues are open. So are sidewalks and parking lots.

Come on, then: Map out your downtown shopping or event strategy, make dinner reservations, and get ready to head out. Need some ideas? Check out things to do downtown at downtownportland.org.

...so don't drive at 5

Here's another good reason to stay a while: Morning and especially evening rush hours may seem more congested than usual, now that construction efforts are really starting to roll. To avoid the crunch, try leaving downtown later (or earlier). In short, "Don't drive at 5." That could mean working a flexible schedule, or staying on to shop and

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

run errands or to enjoy appetizers with friends. Watch for special events and “happy hour” discounts at participating restaurants, as well as incentives to work flex hours or telecommute. For upcoming events, construction updates and more, visit portlandmall.org.

Other ways to get around downtown

Of course there are plenty of other ways besides driving to get around downtown. Here are some smart travel ideas that will help put you in control of your commute—because, after all, your commuting decisions can help keep everyone moving during construction.

Take transit

In many cases, public transit may be your best bet for traveling to, from and around downtown Portland.

TriMet has made it a little easier to get on board, with convenient automated trip planning on the web, and real-time tracking of buses and MAX on the web and over the phone. TriMet’s Frequent Service bus and MAX lines run every 15 minutes or better every day. Monthly passes are a great value, and all rides are free in the downtown Fareless Square area. If there’s no stop near where you live, you can park for free at a nearby Park & Ride lot.



TriMet and C-TRAN buses have moved off the Mall during construction, running on 2nd, 3rd and 4th avenues and Columbia and Jefferson streets instead. Learn more about bus service during construction:

- TriMet bus service, as well as MAX and Portland Streetcar (trimet.org)
- C-TRAN (Vancouver & Clark County, WA) transit service info (c-tran.com)

Share the ride

Do you carpool? Try sharing the ride with friends, family or coworkers. You’ll ease congestion a bit for everyone, and you might even make some new friends. To get started, visit carpoolmatchnw.org.

How about a vanpool for your workplace? It’s highly efficient and cost-effective. If you have five to 15 commuters and a qualified driver, Metro will pay up to 50 percent of the

costs (not including gasoline).

For more, get in touch with Metro’s Mary Ann Aschenbrenner at 503-813-7566 or aschenbrenner@metro.dst.or.us.

Bike to work

You live in a region known for great biking; why not

give it a shot? It’s easy with online trip planning, convenient bike paths and available bike parking and lockers. Start by visiting portlandonline.com or call 503-823-CYCL (2925). You can even bring your bike on buses and MAX: Visit trimet.org/bikes for details.

Walk to work

Need some exercise? If you live nearby, walking to work gives you an opportunity to get to know your neighborhood, support local businesses and get a health benefit too.

Telework

Why not work from home, or give your employees the green light to do it? Studies show that telework helps employees get more done and feel better about their jobs, while companies save money.

Why wait? Get your monthly pass early

Did you know the TriMet Ticket Office at Pioneer Square and other outlets sell next month’s passes as early as the 20th of this month? Why not skip the lines?

Want a monthly reminder when the next month’s pass goes on sale? Sign up for email updates at trimet.org/emailupdates. You can also see the full list of TriMet outlets—such as grocery stores and other neighborhood anchors—at trimet.org/wheretobuy.



March service change

Minor bus schedule adjustments effective March 4

Starting Sunday, March 4, schedules will be adjusted on the following bus lines:

Line	Weekday changes	Saturday/Sunday changes
4-Fessenden	X	X
10-NE 33rd Ave	X	
12-Barbur Blvd	X	X
14-Hawthorne	X	
19-Glisan		X
22-Parkrose		X
31-Estacada	X	
32-Oatfield	X	
34-River Rd	X	
35-Macadam	X	
35-Greeley	X	
43-Taylor's Ferry Rd	X	
51-Vista	X	
57-TV Hwy/Forest Grove	X	X
61-Marquam Hill/Beaverton Transit Center	X	
64-Marquam Hill/Tigard Transit Center	X	
65-Marquam Hill/Barbur Blvd	X	
66-Marquam Hill/Hollywood Transit Center	X	
68-Collins Circle	X	
75-39th Ave/Lombard	X	X
76-Beaverton/Tualatin	X	
152-Milwaukie	X	
155-Sunnyside	X	X
156-Mather Rd	X	X

Most changes are minor, but please consult the new schedule for each line you ride. Pick up a schedule on board, at the TriMet Ticket Office at Pioneer Courthouse Square, or at Fred Meyer, Safeway and most Albertsons stores. For complete schedules and trip planning, or to receive updates by email, visit trimet.org or call 503-238-RIDE (7433).

Transit programs are for colleges too

Do you work at or attend a college, or know someone who does? Local colleges can benefit from TriMet's transportation programs too. Encouraging students to think about their transit options is good for the college, the students the community. Transportation programs work because students reap these benefits:

- More savings, thanks to lower commuting costs
- Freedom to travel throughout the entire TriMet service area
- More time to study or relax

TriMet's programs meet colleges' needs

TriMet offers two college transit pass programs with different costs and levels of student involvement. The programs are not offered directly to students, but to colleges acting through their administrative offices. With either program, students get a sticker on their college photo ID that is valid for unlimited travel on TriMet bus, MAX and Portland Streetcar for the entire term.

Select Term Pass

Offer passes to interested students; pay only for passes used.

With this program, students choose whether they want to participate. The college signs an annual contract with TriMet and then requests Select Term Passes based on projected student participation. The number of passes ordered can fluctuate from term to term. Once the term is underway, the college can return any unused passes to TriMet and pay only for the ones used.

Universal Term Pass


Offer passes to all eligible students at significant savings, based on the

Continued on page 4

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.

TMA name/locale	Web site	Phone
Clackamas Regional Center	crc-tma.com	Wilda Parks 503-654-7777
Gresham Regional Center	gresham.org/transit.htm	Kathy Everett 503-665-3827
Lloyd District	ldtma.com	Rick Williams 503-236-6441
Swan Island	swanislandtma.org	Lenny Anderson 503-745-6563
Troutdale	NA	Allyson Thompson 503-669-7473
Westside Transportation Alliance	wta-tma.org	Kathy Lehtola 503-617-4844



Watch out for buses on 3rd and 4th avenues downtown. Be alert and stay safe:

- Cross at crosswalks only.
- Obey all signals.
- Never cross in front of a bus, unless it's stopped at a red light.

Transit programs

Continued from page 3

number of qualified students enrolled.

Each fall, the college receives a price estimate and one-year contract for approval. As the number of enrolled students changes each term, the total cost goes up or down accordingly. The price per pass represents a significant savings over the Select Term Pass.

A college can choose whether or not to subsidize all or part of students' transit passes. However, here are some reasons to offer a transportation subsidy:

- Demonstrate the administration's commitment to providing economical and eco-friendly commute options
- Reduce the financial burden on students
- Alleviate demand for parking and issues like congestion and neighborhood parking

What next?

Contact your TriMet marketing representative if you have one, or visit trimet.org/colleges. We'll provide expert help to make any college program a success.

Contact TriMet

Customer assistance and trip planning	503-238-RIDE TTY 503-238-5811 trimet.org
Employer programs	503-962-7670
Carpool/vanpool programs	503-962-2433
Carpool matching	carpoolmatchnw.org 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 • FAX 503-962-6469



See where it takes you.