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Summer
2005

A Commuting Resource for Employers

Subscription service helps TCs take a load off

The fact that you're reading this newsletter means you are likely a savvy transportation coordinator. You already may know that TriMet has a web page full of resources to make your job easier (but in case you didn't, visit trimet.org/tc).

However, you might not be aware that you—and the employees you serve—can sign up to receive crucial TriMet information via email. This helps you get the word out to your employees in the blink of an eye, with no photocopying or scratch typing. Here are just a few of the offerings from this subscription service:

To Work newsletter—you're reading it now! For employers and employees in the Portland metro area. Published quarterly, it contains helpful hints for Transportation Coordinators, benefits of subsidizing a transit pass program, advice about transportation options and lots more. Released quarterly.

Rider Alerts—announcements of major changes to routes, schedules, fares and other important issues affecting the line(s) you choose.

Rider Insider newsletter—contains tips on using the TriMet system, updates on new MAX light rail construction projects, announcements about service improvements and lots more.



BrailleNote/VoiceNote GPS—for persons with vision impairments. TriMet stop information is updated quarterly when service changes occur: in March, June, September and December.

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Clean Air Action—spread the word!

More than 600 businesses in Portland and Vancouver participate in the Clean Air Action Day program by encouraging their employees to reduce activities that contribute to smog. This region-wide effort is important because about 80 percent of smog air pollution comes from things we do every day.

When air pollution threatens to hit the highest levels of the year, the Oregon DEQ teams up with the Southwest Washington Air Pollution Control Authority to issue smog advisories. Local TV and radio stations—and other participating businesses—receive these advisories via fax and email. You can too, by signing up at the DEQ web site.

Using commute alternatives like bus or MAX, carpooling, walking, biking or telecommuting is a great way for everyone to take action. Your efforts will make a difference! To get started, visit www.deq.state.or.us/eq/education/CAAD or call 503-229-6154.

Construction coming to Gateway Transit Center



Parking added at E 122nd Ave

In June, a private developer will begin construction on a medical office building at the Gateway/NE 99th Ave Transit Center. Later in the summer, construction will begin on the building's parking garage, which will include Park & Ride spaces.

During construction, almost half of Gateway's Park & Ride spaces will be unavailable. Along with the recently expanded Park & Ride lot at the E 122nd Ave MAX Station (SE 124th and Ash), temporary spaces will

be available later this summer at the Gateway Elks Lodge at NE 99th and Irving. Also, several other Park & Ride lots near Gateway will have plenty of room. For details and updates, visit trimet.org/parkandride.

When the parking garage opens in April 2006, Gateway will have 690 Park & Ride spaces—136 fewer than today. TriMet has already added 170 spaces to the E 122nd Ave MAX Station Park & Ride to compensate.

The new building is expected to be a major workplace and a key part of Gateway's role as a regional center.

Get involved with your local TMA

Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) are groups who help employees use commute alternatives. Many get support from local employers. Contact information for your local TMA is listed below.

Lloyd District

Time to kick off the summer cycling season by riding your bike to work! Enjoy a free continental breakfast, get a free chair massage courtesy of East-West College of Massage, and hear City of Portland Commissioner Sam Adams and Metro Councilor Robert Liberty. Friday, May 20, 7:30 a.m.–9 a.m., Oregon Square, NE Holladay between 7th and 9th.

Visit ldtma.com or call Moira Green at 503-236-6441.

Gresham Regional Center

TriMet's Blue Lake Shuttle will link the Gresham Central Transit Center to Blue Lake Park. The shuttle will run May 28 through September 5 on weekends and the Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day holidays. Visit gresham.org/transit.htm or call Kathy Everett at 503-665-3827 for more information about TMA activities.

Swan Island

Visit www.swanislandtma.org or call Lenya Anderson at 503-745-6563.

Westside Transportation Alliance

Visit www.wta-tma.org or call Dan Aberg at 503-617-4844.

Clackamas Regional Center

Visit www.crc-tma.com or call Wilda Parks at 503-654-7777.

Troutdale

Contact Allyson Thompson at 503-669-7473.

TC Spotlight

Sheryl Melchior, Fred Meyer stores

As Environmental Administrator, Sheryl Melchior works to ensure environmental compliance for all Fred



Sheryl Melchior

Meyer stores in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho. She has her arms around transportation options for more than

8,000 employees. Over the last three years, she presided over a decline in the number of single-occupant trips made by Fred Meyer employees—even though they park for free. How does she do it?

Just over half of Fred Meyer stores in Oregon are located in the Portland area, and many are near bus and MAX lines. Fred Meyer offers a 50 percent subsidy for Portland-area employees who buy a transit pass. Carpoolers and vanpoolers at the corporate office get a subsidy as well, along with choice parking spots close to the front doors.

Fred Meyer employees really value these benefits. Their percentage of transit use has increased dramatically over the nine years since commute-

options surveys began. Employees use their transit passes for commuting even on weekends and evenings.

They connect to C-TRAN service and use Park & Ride lots to expand their range. Sheryl says transit options are very important at Fred Meyer stores because they are staffed 24 hours a day—with 16 of those hours open to customers.

Sheryl provides consistent, timely information on a regular basis through monthly emails and prize drawings. Her emails often include links to websites such as TriMet's Trip Planner and schedules, C-TRAN and the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. The prize drawings, which Sheryl says are very popular, often feature a Fred Meyer gift certificate.

Sheryl participated in last year's Work/Life Expo at Fred Meyer headquarters. At this event, representatives from fitness, diet, and exercise companies show employees the latest in how to stay healthy and happy. This year, TriMet will also participate.

For her dedication and consistent effort, Sheryl Melchior is the winner of TriMet's Transportation Coordinator of the Quarter award.

Renewal season is here

With TriMet's Passport and Snap Pass programs, your business gets TriMet All-Zone transit passes for employees at a reduced rate. If your company already participates, it's time to renew your contract.

The program contract and the stickers used for passes are valid from September 1 through August 31 each year. You'll want to get your new contract ready early, to make sure your employees get new passes before their old ones expire. (Employers new to the program may start anytime during the year at a prorated price.) Keep in mind that if your company is using Passport and has not surveyed employees about commute methods since August 31, 2004, you may need to survey this year before you can renew.

To find out whether you need to survey, to get started on your contract renewal, or to get more information about annual pass programs, contact your TriMet marketing representative—or call Employer Programs at 503-962-7670.



New growth at World Forestry Center

The World Forestry Center Discovery Museum will reopen on June 30 after an intensive six-month, \$7 million renovation. All-new museum exhibits include crawling underneath a tree to see the life below the forest floor, and being hoisted up 45 feet alongside a Douglas fir tree to view the forest canopy. Families



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and school children will come away with an appreciation that forests are truly amazing places.

Food vendors, dancers, musicians, jugglers, and much more will highlight reopening weekend, July 2-3. Take the MAX Red Line or Blue Line to the Washington Park station and take part in the fun!

Keeping you safe

Trust your instincts: If something doesn't look right, let us know.

- Report suspicious packages or behavior.
- Tell a TriMet employee or call 9-1-1.

Carefree Commuter Challenge: July 1–31

Throughout July, thousands of metro-area employees will accept the challenge to try alternate ways of getting to work. Hundreds will be rewarded in their efforts to conserve gas, ease traffic and reduce pollution.

Of course everyone who participates in the Carefree Commuter Challenge is likely to save money and feel healthier; but rewards also come in the form of prizes. Last year more than 300 people won prizes such as an annual TriMet pass, a mini DVD player, a weekend beach getaway, an electric scooter, a river cruise and a train excursion. More than \$12,000 in prizes went to employees who rose to the challenge.

The Carefree Commuter Challenge began in 1999 as a tool for educating the public about air quality and transportation issues. It is organized by the Westside Transportation Alliance (WTA) and funded through sponsorships and contributions.



This year, for the first time, the Challenge will stretch across all of July to offer better compatibility with vacations and other summer activities. It's a great opportunity for employers to increase employee participation in their commute programs, and to educate employees about the array of cost-effective options they have to get to and from work.

For information on how your organization can participate, contact Donna Schmidt from the WTA at 503-617-4844 or donna@wta-tma.org.

Subscription service...

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Handheld Schedule Viewer—

announcements about upgrades to TriMet's Handheld Schedule Viewer software and schedule data files for Palm OS® or Pocket PC handheld devices. Schedule data files usually are updated every four months.

Of course you can come back and change your subscription choices any time you like.

How to sign up

Visit trimet.org/tc. Then:

1. Near the page's lower right corner, click the "Sign up for TriMet email updates" link.
2. On the page that appears, type in your email address and click "Go."
3. On the next page, confirm your email address and—optionally—choose a password.
4. On the next page, choose the types of email updates you want to receive. You can come back and change your choices any time you like.

Contact TriMet

TriMet information (weekdays, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.) **503-238-RIDE**
TTY 503-238-5811

- Trip planning
- Lost & found
- Snow & ice

Bikes on TriMet..... 503-962-7644

Senior & disabled citizens..... 503-962-2455

Carpool information..... 503-227-7665

carpoolmatchnw.org

To Work is published quarterly by the TriMet Marketing Department
For more information about employer transportation programs, contact TriMet Marketing at
503-962-7670 or employerprograms@trimet.org • FAX 503-962-6469 • trimet.org



See where it takes you.