

Fuel prices, fares rise

Fares for buses, MAX and Portland Streetcar will increase on Sunday January 1, 2006, thanks to rising prices at the pump.

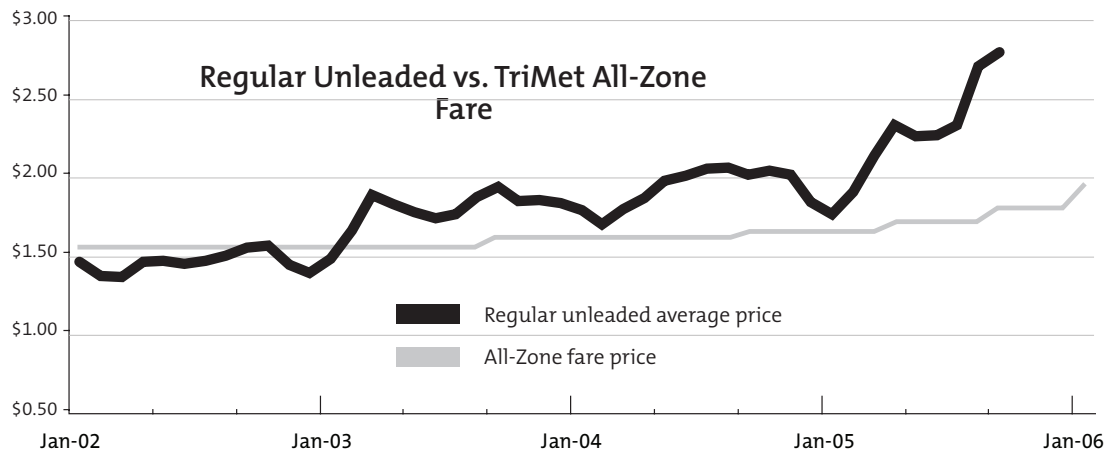
TriMet is once again facing a significant budget gap—more than \$5 million so far this year—due to record-high diesel costs.

Diesel prices are running more than 45 percent over our budgeted amount of \$1.50/gallon. The average price paid so far

this year is \$2.17/gallon. Every 15 cents over the budgeted price costs us roughly \$1 million more per year in operating expenses.

TriMet purchases about 6.5 million gallons of fuel per year. Given the futures market for diesel, we expect fuel costs to average \$2.20/gallon, producing close to a \$5 million budget hole.

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Even after a January fare increase, a trip on TriMet is still a good value compared to the price of gasoline.

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Get ready to get around in snow and ice

Planning ahead for bad weather can minimize frustration and disruption to your normal life if snow starts to fall. Many people turn to TriMet to get them to work so they don't have to hassle with driving or worry about getting stuck. If you plan to take TriMet during a snow/ice emergency, here's what you need to know:



significant delays during weather emergencies. However, buses should arrive at regular intervals even if they are not on schedule.

Transit Tracker will be offline

Transit Tracker™ real-time arrival information provides arrival countdowns for all of TriMet's buses and MAX trains. During bad weather when many vehicles are

delayed, the system cannot accurately predict when vehicles will arrive at specific stops. Check trimet.org or call 503-238-RIDE for the most up-to-date information on route detours and cancellations.

TriMet is committed to helping people get where they need to go in spite of the weather. So take some of the stress out of winter commuting by planning ahead and leaving the driving to us!

Safety comes first

TriMet operators are trained to handle adverse weather conditions, and chains are installed on all buses during a snow or ice storm. However, we will not operate buses on roads that are unsafe for driving.

Some buses will run on snow routes

That means buses may not serve portions of their regular routes that are deemed dangerous because of steep hills, etc. Visit trimet.org or call

503-238-RIDE to check if your bus line is on a snow route.

Some bus lines will be canceled

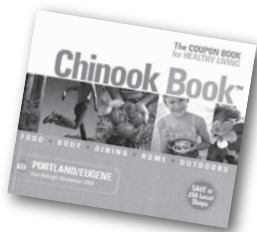
Bus lines with many steep hills or other potential dangers may be canceled until the roads have been cleared.

Buses will run behind schedule

Snow and ice on the roads slow down all traffic, so buses may experience

Chinook Book offers healthy living for less

The 2006 Chinook Book is here! The new edition of the coupon book for healthy living is now available for \$20 at local retailers including Wild Oats, Whole Foods Market, Zupan's and New Seasons Markets.



Find coupons for transportation, fitness, food, dining, arts and entertainment and much more. For a complete list of coupons, offers and where to buy, visit chinookbook.net or call 503-222-7400.

Let's clear the air

MAX stations and bus shelters are now smoke-free

To help make our transit system a comfortable and healthy environment for everyone, smoking is now prohibited where posted inside bus shelters, at most MAX stations and at transit centers. The new rule is enforceable by warning, fine and/or exclusion.

It's OK to smoke on the sidewalk near a shelter, but not inside the "dripline" (the edge of the shelter roof).

The bottom line: Look before you light up. If there's a "No Smoking"

sign posted, please go somewhere else to smoke.

Why the change?

TriMet has received numerous requests and complaints over the years regarding people smoking inside shelters and at MAX stations.

Many transit riders—especially babies, children, seniors and people with health issues—are vulnerable to secondhand smoke. The no-smoking rule will also help maintain a smoke-free workplace for TriMet operators.

How to ride during winter storms

If you're not a frequent transit user, find out your transit options at trimet.org before bad weather hits. Visit trimet.org or call 503-238-RIDE to see if your bus has been detoured before you head outside. Here are some tips to get prepared:

- Dress warmly and expect some delays.
- If there's no traffic going by your bus stop, walk to a stop on a sanded, busy street.
- If your stop is in the middle of a hill, walk to the bottom where the bus can safely stop.

- Stand back from the curb until the bus comes to a complete stop, because it can slide sideways in slippery conditions.

TriMet staff will be at major transit centers throughout the region to assist riders.



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.

A 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

Ride TriMet for the holidays

We can't do your shopping, cook dinner or wrap gifts for you. But we can relieve the stress of holiday traffic and parking this season.



Airport travel

The MAX Red Line takes riders and their bags directly to the baggage claim area at PDX, without the hassle or expense of airport parking. Trains leave from the airport as late as 11:34 p.m.—so even with a late flight, it's a great way to get home.

New Year's Eve

Go on, enjoy yourself! But why not leave the driving to us? Take a free ride on MAX, buses and the Portland Streetcar on New Year's Eve from 8 p.m. until the end of the service day. MAX and several bus lines will operate until 3 a.m., so getting to all the celebrations—and home again—is safe and easy.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Some but not all workers get this Monday holiday off, so TriMet runs on Saturday schedules with extra service for morning and afternoon commutes. Check trimet.org for full details.

Take a pass on high commute costs

Everywhere you look, the price of getting around is going up. But you can do something about it. How would you like to save 30 percent on the cost of getting to work?



You might be familiar with pretax 401(k) and IRA contributions. Employers can set up programs that let you pay for TriMet passes the same way. Even if you currently drive to work, think how much you could save by riding TriMet. (You can't pay for gas with pretax dollars.)

Employers can also wholly or partially subsidize the cost of a pass; you might even be able to commute for free!

What to do next

Check with your Human Resources rep to see whether your employer participates. If not, you might suggest a visit to trimet.org/employers for more info about TriMet's tax advantages and Transit Pass Programs. The business tax credits associated with these programs mean both you and your employer can save big.

Even if your employer doesn't participate, you can save 10 percent or more over single tickets by buying a monthly pass at trimet.org/store

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Improving fuel efficiency

As you may know, TriMet has taken aggressive steps to reduce the financial burden on our budget and our riders. We've improved fuel efficiency and found ways to consume less fuel, including:

- reducing idling
- adjusting transmissions, front-end alignments, steering control arms and tire pressure

These changes, along with strategic service adjustments, have resulted in a 6 percent increase in fuel efficiency and allowed us to reduce the amount of diesel purchased annually by 500,000 gallons. TriMet is believed to be the most fuel-efficient transit provider in the country.

Fare changes

Efficiency alone cannot counter the recent price increases in diesel fuel, which is why we're asking riders to pay a little more.

Starting January 1, 2006, Adult single All Zone fares will be \$1.95 and Adult monthly passes will be \$72. Youth/Student fares will be \$1.30 for single fares and \$21 for monthly passes. Honored Citizen fares will be 80 cents for single fares and \$21 for monthly passes.

These fare increases are expected to cover record-high diesel prices for the rest of the fiscal year.

In addition to transit agencies around the country, high fuel costs are also causing price increases in the airline, trucking and taxicab industries, as well as for the US Postal Service.

For more details, visit us online at trimet.org.

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.