

# Light rail safety and security progress report – November 2008

In the past year TriMet has aggressively enhanced safety and security on its MAX and bus system. These improvements include:

## More police officers

- Doubling the number of police officers working in the Transit Police Division, up from 29 actual positions to 58 officers by the end of fiscal year 2009. Officers are to spend up to 70 percent of their time patrolling the system.
- Created an Eastside and Westside Precinct with dedicated officers patrolling area MAX trains and buses. A South Precinct will open in fiscal year 2009 before the I-205/Portland Mall MAX line extends into Clackamas County.

## More security cameras

- Currently, 41 of the 64 MAX stations have closed circuit TV (CCTV) cameras, and all eight Gresham areas MAX stations will have CCTV cameras by spring 2009.
- Installing CCTV cameras along the I-205/Portland Mall MAX extension and at bus stops along the Mall in downtown Portland.
- Future CCTV installations include E 148th Ave, Willow Creek/NW 185th Ave Transit Center and Quatama/NW 205th Ave.

## More fare inspection

- Doubling the number of staff—from 15 to 30—dedicated to check fares and issue warnings, citations and exclusions for riders without a valid fare.

- Giving authority for all TriMet supervisors—46—to check fares.
- Improved reliability of Ticket Vending Machines (ongoing) and replacing the remaining 37 original TVMs; have retail shops located on MAX platforms sell tickets.



*A Transit Police Division officer checks passengers for valid fares on MAX.*

## More tools for enforcement

- Extended and streamlined Interdiction Command option allows rowdy or intimidating riders to be immediately removed from the transit system for six hours, up from the previous limit of four hours.
- Changed TriMet Code to add intimidation as behavior restricted on the system, including violent, threatening or disruptive behavior or conduct intended and likely to provoke a violent response. The code change also restricts excessively boisterous and unreasonably loud conduct.



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- Extended juvenile detention for up to 36 hours for repeat offenders violating the TriMet code so officials can work with the youths and their families to stop the activity.
- Guaranteed jail time for persons that commit crimes on TriMet (Project 57).
- Hardening station platforms at NE 82nd Ave and Gresham Central MAX stations. Fencing will be added to the Gresham Central westbound platform, making it a fare zone; plus TriMet will increase fare inspection and improve lighting at both stations. The Gresham Central eastbound platform is being reviewed for the potential to add similar treatments. Work to be completed in early 2009.
- Working with the District Attorney to request legislative changes to increase the fines and penalties for illegal behavior on TriMet, including making it a felony to assault a rider.

### More prevention

- Improved lighting and improved sight lines at MAX platforms.
- Doubled the number of contracted rider advocates, with the advocates working with youth to prevent gang activity on the MAX system.
- Continue to use contracted security to provide presence on the system.
- Remove graffiti within 24 hours at MAX stations and transit stations.

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