

# Security essential to regional transit system

Building and operating a secure system is essential to the success of our regional transit system. Each weekday, an average of 315,000 trips take place on TriMet's bus, MAX light rail and WES Commuter Rail lines. This ridership typically generates three reported crimes a day—most reports involve property, such as vandalism, not crimes against people.

TriMet takes a regional approach to addressing security with a professional police force and security personnel, a detailed code of conduct, security cameras and a system design that discourages crime. And, as the system expands, TriMet increases its investment in security.

## Transit Police Division

The Transit Police Division (TPD) has 62 officers, including command staff, representing all three counties and 14 other jurisdictions.

- All incidents on the transit system are coordinated through the regional 9-1-1 system, allowing the closest available unit to serve as the first responders.
- TPD officers augment the work of various law enforcement agencies by evaluating and tracking issues and trends on the transit system and collaborating with local jurisdictions on solutions.
- TPD officers spend up to 70 percent of their time patrolling the system.
- The division currently includes three K-9 units.

## Precincts

The TPD is a division of the Portland Police Bureau and is led by a Portland Police commander. It includes four precincts with dedicated officers patrolling MAX trains and buses.

1. East Precinct in Gresham
2. West Precinct in Hillsboro
3. South Precinct at Clackamas Town Center
4. Central Precinct in downtown Portland

Precincts include office space, staff locker rooms and holding cells.



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

## Security cameras

- Currently, 85 percent of all MAX stations have closed circuit TV (CCTV) cameras. The entire MAX system will have platform cameras installed in 2012.
- When they are constructed, all new MAX platforms have CCTV camera systems installed.
- CCTV cameras are on every MAX train and on two-thirds of the bus fleet.
- Cameras are in all parking garages and elevators.

## Fare inspection

- TriMet has dedicated staff to check fares and issue warnings, citations and exclusions for riders without a valid fare.
- TPD officers, as well as officers from other jurisdictions, check fares on MAX trains.
- Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) have been updated, including the replacement of all of the original TVMs.
- The TVM field technician staff has doubled, covering two shifts a day, seven days a week. Real-time reports are used to track service issues and speed repairs.
- TVM reliability is now more than 90 percent.

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) helps prevent crime by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior—people who use the area regularly perceive it as safe and would-be criminals are deterred.

TriMet engineers work with security staff and law enforcement officials to evaluate light rail platform designs early in the planning stages to incorporate crime prevention principles into each new project.

- Stations are designed with open sight lines by placing platform furniture (benches, signage and shelters) in a way that does not create hiding places and keeps the area uncluttered.
- Stations, walkways and Park & Ride areas are well lit. Landscaping helps define station boundaries.
- To maximize enforcement at stations, TriMet creates fare zone platforms when feasible. Ticket Vending Machines are installed away from platforms, so riders need a valid fare on the platform. This allows security personnel to engage before boarding a train.
- Existing station areas are also reviewed to enhance sight lines and lighting, add CCTV cameras and other security measures.

## Tools for enforcement

- TriMet has an extended and streamlined Interdiction Command option to allow rowdy or intimidating riders to be immediately removed from the transit system for six hours, up from the previous limit of four hours.
- The TriMet Code was revised 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.

- Juvenile detention has been extended to allow for a safety hold for up to 36 hours for repeat offenders violating the TriMet code or engaged in certain criminal activity to allow officials to work with the youths and their families to stop the activity.
- A pilot effort is under way limiting access to station platforms at NE 82nd Ave and Gresham Central MAX stations. Railings now demarcate paid fare zones and both stations have improved lighting. These improvements allow for improved fare inspection and help deter crime.

## Prevention

- TriMet continues to use contracted security to provide a presence on the system.
- Graffiti is removed within 24 hours at busy MAX stations and transit stations.
- Four Rider Advocates with Victory Outreach ride the MAX system to engage and work with youth to promote safe behavior.

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