



Minutes

Meeting:	TriMet Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting	Date:	December 10, 2025
Board Members Present:	JT Flowers Tyler Frisbee Erin Graham Robert Kellogg Thomas Kim	Board Members Absent:	LaVerne Lewis

TriMet Board Business meetings and public forum are available via web video stream. You can access the archived meetings and materials at trimet.org/meetings/board.

Following Public Forum, Vice President Kim called the business meeting to order at 9:54am.

1. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) – Director Graham provided a summary of the November 19 CAT business meeting. The Committee was introduced to the Multnomah County Sheriff Captain, Matt Jordan, who shared information on TriMet’s security resources. CAT members raised concerns about safety on the blue line. The Fixed Route Subcommittee provided an update on newly designed bus shelters currently being installed around the system. The Subcommittee also provided an update on the Outer Powell Transportation Safety Project and ADA pass-ups. The Wayfinding Subcommittee then provided updates on accessibility improvements to trimet.org, progress on the improved automatic stop announcements, and an update on the data from the Aira pilot program for blind or low vision riders. The Subcommittee also identified areas for improvement with the placement of QR code stickers blocking window visibility on fixed route buses and the need for octagonal poles at FX stops. The 82nd Ave. Community Advisory Committee update included a report on the key challenges around Business Access Transit Lanes (or BAT lanes), which have been a core focus for the past two months. The CAT committee expressed support for more BAT lanes. The meeting concluded with a presentation on the Beaverton and Oregon City Transit Center redesigns and the role of Orientation and Mobility research in both projects. Earlier in November, TriMet staff and members of CAT attended the Oregon Transportation Association (OTA) Conference in Bend where Jan Campbell was presented a Lifetime Achievement award from OTA. The next CAT business meeting is scheduled for December 17.

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Flowers provided a summary of the October and November MPAC meetings. In October, MPAC heard an update from Metro Staff on the Regional Housing Coordination Strategy, which is part of the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis. In November, the group voted to recommend the approval of that strategy to the Metro Council, including actions Metro can take to promote housing production and affordability.

In both October and November, MPAC received briefings from Metro staff regarding the Future Vision update, a task required within Metro's charter. MPAC will be considering the proposed engagement strategy for the Future Vision update at our next meeting.

Also in October, MPAC approved recommendations on proposed amendments to land use-related provisions within Metro Code to ease the burden on property owners seeking to annex into Metro's boundaries, and to comply with the Council's 2022 inclusive and plain language policy. Lastly, MPAC received informational briefings on two regional projects: Happy Valley's planned development strategy for a new Downtown District, and Metro's Cooling Corridors Study, which explores the regional government's role in addressing extreme heat in the region. The next MPAC meeting is December 17.

Defined Benefit Pension Trust Meeting – Director Kim provided a summary of the November 19 Defined Benefit Pension Trust meeting. At the meeting, actuaries from Cheiron presented the results of the actuarial valuation of the ATU defined benefit pension plan. This report is posted on TriMet's public facing website under Transparency & Accountability. Our investment advisors from Meketa presented the investment portfolio results for the recent quarter ending 09/30/25. Meketa also reviewed and presented minor revisions to the Investment Policy Statement and the trustees adopted that change unanimously.

Finance and Audit Committee (F&A) – Director Kim shared a summary of this morning's F&A meeting. Two items were discussed at the meeting. First, the Committee reviewed the current budget balance scorecard for FY26-FY40, which outlined the long-term financial impact of potential new revenues and estimated cost savings from service cuts and spending reductions. This scorecard will now be presented to the full board monthly. Second, staff provided a 2026 Payroll Tax Bond Issuance update. The Committee discussed the upcoming 2026 bond issuance consideration. At the January Board Meeting, there will be a request to authorize TriMet to issue up to \$150 million in payroll tax revenue bonds. Staff provided a presentation that demonstrated TriMet will remain below the 7.5% debt limit per our debt policy after this bond issuance. The 2026 bond issuance will help fund the following projects: light rail vehicle replacement, TV Highway transit improvements, 82nd Avenue transit improvements, bus purchases, and Columbia Bus Base. The next F&A Committee meeting is scheduled for January 28.

Fare Enforcement Observation – Director Kellogg shared his experience of joining Chief Safety and Security Officer, Andrew Wilson, to observe a shift with the fare enforcement team. He observed the team at work de-escalating situations concerning safety and fares and the daily challenges the team faces. Director Kellogg invited the other board members to schedule their own ride along with the team to bring their experiences and observations to a future discussion of how TriMet enforces fare and how to empower TriMet employees to handle challenging situations.

November 12 Board Retreat – Director Kim provided a report on the November 12 Board Retreat. There is a draft summary report provided by David Jackson Advisory, the consultants who led our discussion, in the board portal. Director Kim asked the other members of the Board to review the draft report and send any questions or comments to him and President Lewis. After the report is finalized, there will be an opportunity to discuss and plan for follow-up after the holidays. Director Kim also reminded the Board to take the consultants' assessment as well.

General Manager Report

October Ridership

General Manager Desue provided an overview of ridership for the month of October. Data from November is not quite ready yet. In October, TriMet provided 5.8 million rides. That is down, about 17,000 rides, from October of 2024. While October 2024 was a strong month in which there were no disruptions for improvement work, this October saw our weeklong Eastside MAX Improvements project. That project

primarily impacted the MAX Red Line, but it also disrupted the Blue, Green and Red lines for a full day of service. While MAX ridership was down in October, WES and bus both showed year-over-year improvements to ridership.

Monthly Operations Analysis

Mr. Desue introduced Les Spitler, Director of Transit System Support Services, and Senior Analyst for Operations and Planning, Katherine Keeling, to present the Monthly Operations Analysis. A copy of the report is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Budget Scorecard Update

Mr. Desue introduced Nancy Young-Oliver, Chief Financial Officer, to present an update to the budget scorecard. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Planning January Outreach

Mr. Desue shared TriMet's plan to gather feedback in January on upcoming services changes. Once the holidays wrap up and the New Year is here, we have a big job to do. We are going to begin talking to the public about significant changes coming to our service later in 2026. Adjustments to begin bringing service in line with our funding are already underway. We reduced service on five (5) bus lines on November 30, and we plan similar reductions on four (4) other lines in March. These initial adjustments occur at times when analyses show fewer people are riding. Every ride is important to the person who is taking it. While relatively small, we understand these changes affect people's lives and their ability to connect with opportunities. That's why it's critical to connect with them and hear feedback on upcoming service changes that will be more impactful.

We will be sharing those proposed service changes that will be implemented later in 2026 on January 5 and collecting feedback through January 31. They are based on the feedback to our fall 2025 service priorities survey as well as ridership trends and other factors. A summary of the feedback was presented at the November Board Retreat. Over the month of January we will have the proposal online at trimet.org/servicecuts and invite people to comment. We will spread the word through email, social media and news releases and direct communication with key partners. For the more significant changes, we will send direct mail to nearby address and post information at bus stops. The team will host three online open houses: one in English and one in Spanish. The third online open house will be focused on older adults and people with disabilities.

We are planning eight in-person open houses. Riders and members of the public will be encouraged to attend. We also will be partnering with community-based organizations to recruit participants for these, as well as for focus groups where we can reach more non-English language speakers. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Monthly Safety and Security Update

Mr. Desue invited Andrew Wilson, Chief Safety and Security Officer, to come forward and present a monthly Safety and Security Update. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

New Year's Eve Free Rides

Mr. Desue reminded the Board that TriMet offers free fare on the evening of New Year's Eve. As we close out the year with holiday festivities, TriMet is here for you. It is our mission to provide safe, reliable transportation day in and day out, and the holidays are no different. If holiday plans include alcohol, consider taking transit rather than getting behind the wheel. Transit is always the better alternative to drinking and driving. That is why we will once again offer free rides after 8 p.m. on New Year's Eve. Mr. Desue thanked our sponsor, Oregonians Credit Union, for coming through for the community and helping TriMet continue our long-running tradition. The service we provide can save lives.

Year-End Video

Mr. Desue introduced a year-in-review video that highlights all that we have accomplished this year for our riders and our region. A recording of the video can be found on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@trimet.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for October 22, 2025
- Resolution Directing Ordinances to be Read by Title Only
- Resolution 25-12-53 – Authorizing a Contract Modification with Peterson Power System for the Procurement of One Additional Emergency Backup Generator

Action: Director Kellogg moved for approval of the Consent Agenda. Director Flowers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

4. Resolutions

Resolution 25-12-54 – Approving the Updated Agency Safety Plan

General Manager Desue discussed Resolution 25-12-54. This resolution approves TriMet's 2026 revised Agency Safety Plan, to go into effect on January 1, 2026. This action fulfills a Federal Transit Administration requirement. It renews our commitment to safety... and allows TriMet to receive FTA funds. Elements of the plan include safety performance measures concerning:

- Transit worker assaults
- Fatalities
- Injuries
- Safety Events
- System Reliability/State of Good Repair

These measures allow TriMet to set targets, gauge performance and take affirmative steps to incorporate improvements. The updated plan has been thoroughly reviewed by the General Manager, Chief Safety and Security Officer Andrew Wilson, the executive team and other internal stakeholders. The updated plan has been in your Board portal since October for your review. Once approved by the Board, it will be submitted to ODOT for final approval and submission to the FTA.

Action: Director Frisbee moved for approval of Resolution 25-12-54. Director Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 25-12-55 – Appointing Members to the 2026-27 HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee

General Manager Desue discussed Resolution 25-12-55. The HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee helps develop a plan for projects and programs funded by HB 2017, also known as Keep Oregon Moving. Committee members are appointed for two-year terms, and can be re-appointed to serve for up to 8 years. This resolution requests authorization for the reappointment of 10 members and the initial appointment of 12 new members. Mr. Desue introduced Director of Policy and Planning, Tom Mills, to provide more details on the advisory committee and TriMet's role with it. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org. Mr. Desue added for TriMet to receive HB 2017 funds, the Committee's plan for each funding period must be approved by the Board and then submitted to the Oregon Transportation Commission. This resolution is only the appointment of committee members for the new two-year term. The complete list of members is attached as Exhibit A.

Action: Director Flowers moved for approval of Resolution 25-12-55. Director Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 25-12-56 – Authorizing the Acquisition by Purchase or Exercise of the Power of Eminent Domain Certain Real Property Interests Necessary for the Construction of the Oregon City Transit Center Improvement Project

General Manager Desue discussed Resolution 25-12-56. The Oregon City Transit Center currently serves seven TriMet bus lines. An Improvement Project will update, reconfigure, and increase capacity of the bus layover facilities at the Oregon City Transit Center. It will also provide additional space required for future service upgrades. For the construction phase of this Project, TriMet must acquire property interests. Care has been taken to design the Project to have the least possible impact on private property. In this case, TriMet needs to acquire two temporary construction easements to be used by TriMet and our contractor. After approval of the Resolution, TriMet staff will make formal written offers to purchase the temporary construction easements based on independent appraisals. TriMet will then attempt to negotiate a purchase price with each owner, which is expected. However, if an agreement cannot be reached following a reasonable period of negotiation, passage of this resolution would allow TriMet, as a last resort, to proceed with condemnation of these pieces of properties using the power of eminent domain. Again, staff anticipates that negotiated settlements are likely. The acquisition of the necessary properties is a project cost, and it is included in the project budget. The project cost is approximately \$7 million dollars and is funded with 59% federal funds and 41% TriMet General Fund.

Action: Director Kellogg moved for approval of Resolution 25-12-56. Director Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

5. ORDINANCES

Ordinance 380 - Amending Chapter 14 of the TriMet Code to Revise the Definition of “Net Earnings from Self-Employment” (First Reading and Public Hearing)

Director of Legal Services Erik Van Hagen read Ordinance No. 380 by Title Only.

Director Kim opened the public hearing. There were no members of the public present to comment on Ordinance 380. Director Kim closed the public hearing.

Mr. Desue discussed Ordinance 380. This is a procedural business ordinance, an annual housekeeping item. It reconnects TriMet Code to the federal tax code, providing clarity for taxpayers and the IRS.

Director Kim reminded the Board there will not be a vote on Ordinance 380 until the second reading, which will take place during the January 2026 Board meeting.

Hearing no further business, Vice President Kim adjourned the meeting at 11:09am.

6. BRIEFING

82nd Avenue Project Update

General Manager Desue introduced the first briefing of the morning. The 82nd Avenue Transit Project recently received a very positive indicator from the Federal government. The FTA assigned the project a positive mid-cycle rating of Medium-High. That rating affirms that the project is a strong investment in transit and economic development. It is a significant step forward in the process to receive federal funding. While the project team updated the Board in October, they are back today for this briefing to give you an additional opportunity to learn about the project and ask questions. Mr. Desue stated that he is heavily

invested in the 82nd Avenue project; this is a corridor he cares about, and he is committed to getting it right. He noted that he has already taken the Executive team out on the corridor to help them understand the project up close and we'll be putting together a dedicated tour for the Board as well. Mr. Desue noted that he has been involved in four different BRT startups across three states. None of those projects included protected lanes or BAT lanes, and it didn't necessarily affect the overall performance of the line. That said, he is a strong supporter of BAT lanes and the value they bring to transit reliability.

While our budget and the federal funding timeline create some real constraints, they don't lessen my commitment to using this innovative tool where it makes the most sense. 82nd Avenue is already a great project, any level of BAT lane treatment will elevate it even further. I'm looking forward to continuing conversations with the project's Policy & Budget Committee on this complex topic. This committee represents a County Commissioner from Clackamas County, the Director of PBOT, the ODOT Policy and Development Manager, two Metro Councilors, and a member from the Community Advisory Committee. The committee's recommendation on BAT lanes needs to address regulatory requirements, construction challenges, and business and community concerns throughout the corridor, and a funding strategy. There's a lot to consider as we work to deliver a successful, high-performing corridor, and I'm looking forward to working together on what's best for 82nd. Mr. Desue then introduced Jamie Snook, Interim Executive Director of Capital Project Delivery, Engineering and Construction, as well as Michael Kiser, Interim Director of Major Projects and Jesse Stemmler, the Interim Project Director for 82nd Avenue Project. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

TriMet North Terminus Off-street Bus Layover Facility Requirement

General Manager Desue introduced the second briefing of the morning. TriMet has a unique opportunity to acquire a property that will allow us to meet an agreement we made with the City of Portland in 2016. That is to move our buses that layover in NW Portland off the street near Union Station. This opportunity not only meets our contractual agreement, it addresses an on-going operational need and increases safety for our operators and other frontline employees. Chief Operations Officer Inessa Vitko and Director of Real Estate Lance Erz presented background information and answered questions in advance of possible Board action in January. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Falesha Thrash

Falesha Thrash, Board Administrator and recording secretary