



Minutes

Meeting:	TriMet Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting	Date:	June 24, 2026
Board Members Present:	Tyler Frisbee Erin Graham Robert Kellogg Thomas Kim LaVerne Lewis	Board Members Absent:	JT Flowers

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, President Lewis called the business meeting to order at 9:18 am.

1. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) – Director Graham shared a summary of the Annual Accessibility Luncheon hosted by CAT. The luncheon brought together CAT members, community partners, advocates, TriMet leadership, Board members, and staff to reflect on the progress made toward creating a more accessible transit system and to recognize the individuals whose dedication continues to advance that work. The event serves not only as a celebration, but also as a reminder that accessibility is fundamental to TriMet's mission of connecting people with opportunities, communities and one another.

Throughout the year, CAT members devote countless volunteer hours reviewing projects, identifying barriers, providing feedback on policies and service changes, participating in operator training, conducting accessibility field reviews, and helping ensure that the voices of older adults and people with disabilities are incorporated into TriMet's decision-making processes. The luncheon provides an opportunity to acknowledge those contributions and thank the individuals who make this work possible.

A highlight of this year's event was the presentation of the 2026 Trish Baker Community Advocate Award to Claudia Robertson. Claudia's decades of service as a disability and older adult advocate, including her leadership as CAT Vice Chair and co-Chair of the Accessible Transportation Fund Advisory Committee, have left a lasting impact on TriMet and the communities we serve. Her commitment to equity, dignity, and accessible transportation has inspired generations of advocates and helped shape a more inclusive transit system for all.

The event also provided an opportunity to recognize the many TriMet employees, community partners and advocates whose partnership advances accessibility every day. Their collective efforts remind us that creating a truly accessible transportation network requires collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to ensuring that every rider can travel safely, independently, and with dignity. CAT's Annual Report, detailing their accomplishments over the past year, is included in the June Board packet.

On behalf of the Committee on Accessible Transportation, Director Graham thanked TriMet leadership, staff, community partners, and fellow Board members for their continued support of accessibility initiatives. The Annual Accessibility Luncheon is a powerful reflection of TriMet's values and of the strong partnerships that help us build a transit system that works for everyone.

Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Kellogg shared a summary of the May 27 MPAC meeting. Committee members received an update on the Governor's Prosperity Roadmap progress. This effort was launched by Governor Kotek in December 2025 as a response to the economic headwinds currently facing Oregon. Guided by a 16 member Prosperity Council, the roadmap will guide a statewide economic strategy. The roadmap is built around three overarching goals for (1) business retention and growth, (2) job creation, and (3) accelerated economic growth. Informed by community input and a set of strategic initiatives, the council will soon make actionable recommendations and define steps to accelerate Oregon's economy, create good paying jobs, and recruit and grow Oregon's businesses.

At the May meeting, committee members also received a thorough presentation from Metro staff on the 2040 Growth Concept "Lookback," an assessment of the successes, challenges, and oversights of the original 1995 Growth Concept. The lookback provided a summary and perspective of growth management, housing, transportation, climate, economy, farmland, and parks and nature. Specific to transportation, the region's compact development pattern has reduced per-capita driving compared to other U.S. metropolitan areas, lowering costs and improving safety outcomes. However, transit ridership has declined over time despite investments in service. While the region benefits from integrated land use and transportation planning, gaps remain in transit and active transportation networks. Reflecting upon these foundational measures of past planning will guide updates to regional plans and policies as part of the Future Vision (aka Future 50) work ahead. The next MPAC meeting is scheduled for this evening.

Finance and Audit Committee (F&A) – Director Kim provided a summary of the June 18 F&A Meeting. First, the Committee was provided an overview of the 2026 bond transaction. TriMet successfully completed its 2026 Payroll Tax Revenue Bond financing. Bond proceeds will provide critical funding for the SE 82nd Avenue and TV Highway projects, Columbia Bus Base, ERP modernization, and light rail vehicle replacement. The transaction also included refunding certain outstanding obligations, generating approximately \$10.5 million in net present value savings.

The bonds received the highest possible credit ratings—AAA from Moody's, AAA from S&P, and AAA from Kroll—reflecting TriMet's credit quality. The transaction attracted strong investor demand, resulting in favorable borrowing costs while remaining within all Board-approved financial policies and debt affordability targets.

Michael Dohn, the Budget and Forecasting Director, provided an update on the Balanced Budget Scorecard, which is used to support TriMet's 15-year financial forecast and long-term financial planning. The scorecard has been updated to reflect changes in operations, upcoming service adjustments, revised financial assumptions, and the most recent Bond transaction. The updated forecast highlights the ongoing budget pressures on the District's projected financial position. We will hear details from our CFO later this morning.

Defined Benefit Pension Meeting – Director Kim provided a summary of the May 22, 2026 Defined Benefit Pension Meeting. The Trustees of the Defined Benefit Pension Plan for the ATU Plan and the Management & Staff Plan met to review quarterly investment performance and other trust matters. Meketa Investment Group, the financial advisor to the defined benefit pension trusts, presented the quarterly investment performance reports for both pension plans as of March 31, 2026. Overall, investment performance was favorable, and no changes or actions were recommended regarding the current investment managers or fund allocations.

Meketa also provided an economic and market update covering market conditions through March 31, 2026, including broader economic trends and investment environment observations relevant to the pension trusts. Lastly, Meketa reported that both pension plans remain in compliance with the annual review requirements related to cryptocurrency and digital asset exposure policies. No formal actions were taken by the trustees during these meetings.

Board Announcements – President Lewis announced that Governor Kotek appointed Denyse McGriff as the next TriMet Director for District 7. Director McGriff was confirmed by the Oregon Senate on June 17, 2026 and her term officially started Monday, June 22. Though she was unavailable to attend today’s board meeting, she is anticipated to attend the July 22 meeting. Director McGriff fills the vacancy from Director Kathy Wai, and represents TriMet District 7, which encompasses Clackamas County, West Linn, Oregon City and Gladstone. Because Director Wai’s term expired, Director McGriff will serve a full term of four years, through June 2030.

President Lewis then asked Director Frisbee to share a report from the Governor’s Transit Vision Committee (Workgroup). Director Frisbee shared that the June 1 meeting focused on seven subcommittee groups, of which she has been assigned workgroup liaison of the Major Project Funding and Delivery subcommittee. Director Flowers will also sit on this subcommittee in a different capacity. General Manager Desue sits on the Transit subcommittee. The purpose of each subcommittee is to send up recommendations to the larger workgroup to then review and determine which recommendations to make to the Governor. A complete list of the subcommittees, along with Workgroup meeting details can be found on the Workgroup website at <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/pages/rebuilding-our-transportation-vision-workgroup.aspx>. The next Workgroup meeting is scheduled for July 7.

President Lewis announced to the Board to expect the General Manager Performance worksheet soon as she and Director Kim are finalizing the details for the FY26 GM Performance Evaluation process and FY27 GM Deliverables. She also reminded the Board to complete their Ethics training, required once per term served.

General Manager Report

May Ridership

Mr. Desue provided an overview of ridership for the month of May. TriMet provided nearly 5.9 million rides in May. That’s up 1.2%, or almost 72,000 rides, from May 2025. While that is considered flat growth year-over-year, it is important to note that May 2026 had one less weekday than May 2025. Overall, fixed-route ridership for the 2026 calendar year thus far is trending slightly higher than at this point last year.

Monthly Operations Analysis

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

Fuel Costs

Mr. Desue shared details on fuel costs impacting TriMet. Fuel costs jumped to extremes after the Iran War began at the end of February. At one point, TriMet’s fuel costs were 84% over weekly budgeted amounts. While the global situation may be changing, fuel prices have remained elevated, and we have taken steps to address the impact. At our March meeting, the Board approved the transfer of \$3 million dollars in funds to Maintenance because of the anticipated increase in fuel prices. In addition, the fiscal year 2027 budget was developed using higher fuel-cost assumptions to better reflect current market conditions. However, the increased fuel costs triggered a Board-directed resolution. Back in 2005, TriMet was facing a similar period of rising fuel prices. At that time, the Board adopted a directive requiring the General Manager to develop a

formal action plan if fuel costs exceeded budget projections by more than 10% for two consecutive months. General Manager Desue said that staff will continue to closely monitor fuel prices and their impact on our financial outlook and he will keep the Board informed of any additional actions that may be necessary.

Budget Scorecard Update

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

Transit and Passenger Rail Subgroup

Mr. Desue discussed details on the new Transit and Passenger Rail Subgroup. Last week, TriMet participated in the first meeting of the Transit and Passenger Rail Subgroup of the Governor's Transportation Vision Workgroup where Director Frisbee sits. TriMet was represented by our Director of Government Affairs Miles Pengilly, joined on the Subgroup by the ATU and transit providers, advocates and business interests from across the state. The Transit Subgroup is chaired by Jameson Auten, CEO for Lane Transit District. In periodic meetings through September, the Transit Subgroup will develop a memo that captures the 10-year outlook for Oregon transit under three funding scenarios; 1) no new funding; 2) stabilize and sustain core services; 3) incremental investments and highlights key priorities and recommended actions. This memo will inform the work of the Governor's Transportation Vision Workgroup as they build a comprehensive investment framework for Oregon's transportation system. The framework they develop will serve as the foundation of the 2027 transportation package.

Monthly Safety and Security Report

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

Employee Recognition

Mr. Desue recognized bus operator Kunchok Lama for a recent act of heroism in reuniting a lost man with his family. Not only did he find a 73-year-old man reported missing from a local care facility, by an incredible twist of fate, our operator is one of only a few thousand people in our area who could effectively communicate with the man. Mr. Desue then introduced a recording of the story reported by KGW News early this month. A recording of the video can be found on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@trimet.

Mr. Desue shared a portion of the commendation the man's family sent in. Speaking of Kunchok "I am incredibly impressed with his work ethic and commitment to public safety. I want to extend my sincere thanks to Kunchok and to the department for employing such an excellent and hardworking professional." The email describes him as an exemplary worker, a credit to TriMet and the Portland region. Mr. Desue addressed Kunchok, sharing that he was touched by his actions and wanted to share his appreciation for him as a TriMet employee and a human being. Mr. Desue then introduced Julie Martin, Bus Operations Assistant Manager, to share more about Kunchok and how remarkable his encounter was.

Mr. Desue continued to thank Kunchok for his act of kindness and said that leaders around the US have contacted him about Kunchok's actions. He expressed that drivers do not get nearly enough appreciation for the roles they fulfill and this is a true example of servant behavior in a public facing position. Mr. Desue invited Kunchok to share more about his story and opened the floor to the Board to express their appreciations before taking a group photo. A recording of the recognition is in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2026

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

4. Resolutions

Resolution 26-06-21 – Authorizing a Contract Modification with Tait Communications for Radio System Managed Services

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 26-06-21. To address TriMet's long-term, structural budget deficit, throughout the agency we are looking for ways to save money and increase revenue. Among those efforts, Chief Information Officer Ethan Benatan and the IT staff have been evaluating our contracts for software and IT services. They have been engaging vendors we have existing contracts with to re-evaluate those contracts with an emphasis on saving money. IT is in the process of re-negotiating three such contracts that will save TriMet nearly \$2 million dollars without reducing the services we get. For two of those contracts, with Milestone and Init, the overall contract amount is below the threshold to bring to the Board.

Among the savings, the team has negotiated a 53% discount with Milestone, our video technology software vendor, that will save us nearly \$1.5 million over five years. While that is the largest savings from those three new deals, we also save quite a bit of money with the Tait Communications contract modification that is before you today. It will extend the Tait contract from 5 years to 7 years and increase the total contract authority by about \$579,000 dollars, bringing the total contract value to \$2.6 million. But, as described in your packet, TriMet's IT Division has negotiated well over a quarter-million dollars in future cost savings. And by extending the contract now at the new cost starting in year three through Fiscal Year 2031, we likely save even more, since the original terms of the contract would have had us renegotiating a new contract in 2029 at the inflated price of that time.

Tait provides support for TriMet's Land Mobile Radio system. That system is mission-critical and a high priority. The radio system provides a communications link vital to both day-to-day operations as well as the safety of TriMet staff and the public. The system supports about 2,900 radios located across our transit system, including in buses, MAX trains, paratransit vehicles, supervisor vehicles, transit police and security cars and other places throughout the system. Every front-line staff member needs a radio on them or nearby as they do their job. This is their lifeline to our radio control center. Under the modification, Tait will continue to provide 24-hour system health monitoring and support, engineering diagnostic and troubleshooting services, system enhancements and regular usage analysis to meet current and future needs. Additionally, Tait will maintain existing and new servers, software and critical backup communications systems. This is a sole source contract. Even with the June 2025 changes in TCRB rules, this sole source contract still meets the requirements. Because Tait uses proprietary equipment and software, monitoring and support of the system so critical to TriMet's operations can only be done by Tait staff. While most sole source contracts are limited to two years, the substantial savings warrants a longer contractual period, and letting the original term of the contract expire and replacing TriMet's entire radio system is not economically feasible. The additional costs for extending the term of this contract with Tait will be included in future years' IT Division budgets and are expected to come from General Funds.

Action: Director Kim moved for approval of Resolution 26-06-21. Director Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Hearing no further business, President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 10:34 am.

5. BRIEFING

General Manager TriMet 2030 Strategy Session

President Lewis shared that General Manager Desue will share a 12-month strategy at the July Board meeting when our newest Board member McGriff will also be present. In the meantime, she asked to allow the General Manager and his executive team to get through this next month with some space and grace, understanding all the layoffs that are happening and how impactful that is going to be for everyone. What will be shared during today's briefing covers the major actions the GM and the Agency has taken around advancing TriMet 2030 since our November 2025 Board Retreat, and during the first half of 2026.

Mr. Desue added that he plans to bring a high-level work plan of where we plan to focus our activities over the next 12 months. This work plan will help translate our value to the region and the problem we are solving for in the next 2 to 3 years. Our focus is on the most important strategic priorities for the next 12 months and the approach we take in order to be successful into clear actions and measurable outcomes for the year ahead. For almost 57 years we have united this region around the mission to serve more than a billion people, taking them where they need to go. We expect to be here for another 57 years to support our region. TriMet has endured recessions in the 1980's, 1990's, the great recession, the pandemic and we will endure this and come out the other side ready to serve this region. Together we can do this. We know good transit is vital to the region's success. We are rebuilding the TriMet that we know and love. Mr. Desue then introduced Executive Director of Planning Alan Lehto to give an update on the plan. A copy of the presentation is in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Falesha Thrash

Falesha Thrash, Board Administrator and recording secretary