



TV Highway Transit & Safety Project Policy & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 5, 2026

Time: 4:00PM – 6:00PM

Meeting Location: Cornelius City Hall (1355 N Barlow St, Cornelius, OR 97113)

[Recording Link](#)

Attendees:

Committee/Sub-Committee Members

- Sam Desue, Jr (TriMet)
- Juan Carlos Gonzalez (Metro)
- Jerry Willey (Washington County)
- Jeffrey Dalin (City of Cornelius)
- Brian Schimmel (City of Forest Grove)
- Kipperlyn Sinclair (City of Hillsboro)
- Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg (City of Beaverton)
- Stephanie Turner (ODOT)
- Annadiana Johnson (TV Hwy CAC Chair)

Presenters

- Michael Kiser – TriMet
- Josh Brennan – TriMet
- Gwen Eckelman - TriMet
- Nik Whitcomb – TriMet



Minutes:

A. Welcome & Member Introductions

- TriMet General Manager and Committee Chair Sam Desue, Jr. opened the meeting by welcoming all of the committee members and allowing them to introduce themselves.
- Sam shared his personal investment in the TV Highway Transit & Safety Project and led the committee through a review of the values word cloud activity they were asked to complete ahead of the meeting.

B. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

C. Community Affairs Update

- Community Affairs Coordinator Nik Whitcomb shared an update about the work the Community Affairs team has been doing including forming the Community Advisory Committee and development of the engagement and communications plan.

D. Project Status Update

- Interim Director of Major Projects Michael Kiser provided a project status update and overview, which included a high-level overview of the project schedule and funding timeline.

E. Stop Refinement in Downtown Cornelius

- TV Highway Deputy Design Manager Gwen Eckelman shared an update with the committee about the CAC input process and that the CAC landed on Options B & C in their discussions.
 - a. The Policy & Budget members discussed these two options heavily citing that both would have a positive impact on future development and connectivity in Cornelius.



- b. Cornelius Mayor Jeff Dalin preferred Option C since the stop at Fred Meyer currently has high ridership levels but thought it was a “spoil of riches” between the two options and would be happy to go either way.
- c. The committee ultimately recommended Option B which includes stops at 10th, 14th, and 20th citing the more equal spacing between stops as a deciding factor.

F. Vehicle Selection

- TV Highway Project Director Josh Brennan introduced the topic of vehicle selection to the committee. He shared the current operational challenges at Merlo Garage and analysis of current and future ridership that has led to the consideration of 40’ buses to serve the corridor over 60’ buses.
 - a. A number of committee members expressed disappointment in this change. Some asked how we got to this point in the project without already knowing this information and others named feeling like Washington County was again getting the short end of the stick from TriMet.
 - b. Other members asked technical questions about renovating Merlo and the timeline in which this decision needed to be made and if there was room in the schedule for jurisdictions to potentially find additional resources to assist in retrofitting Merlo Garage.
 - i. The project team shared that the process to design and renovate Merlo would not be complete in time for the first day of service for the new FX line.
 - c. Members also wanted to clarify that stations would still be built for 60’ buses and the team confirmed.
- Sam closed out the conversation and stated that the topic will return in the next meeting so that we can answer final questions and make a formal decision.

G. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 4-6PM @ the Hillsboro Civic Center