



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

Date: April 29, 2026

Time: 4:00PM – 6:00PM

Meeting Location: Hillsboro Civic Center (150 E Main St, Hillsboro, OR 97123)

[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)
- Cristian Salgado (City of Hillsboro)
- Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg (City of Beaverton)
- Chris Ford (ODOT)
- Annadiana Johnson (TV Hwy CAC Chair)

Presenters

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



Minutes:

A. Welcome & Member Introductions

- TriMet General Manager and Committee Chair Sam Desue, Jr. opened the meeting by welcoming committee members and inviting introductions.
- Sam highlighted the continued collaboration between jurisdictional partners and members shared personal reflections about riding Line 57.

B. Public Comment

- Hillsboro City Councilor and Policy & Budget Alternate Kipperlyn Sinclair provided public comment expressing interest in touring Merlo Garage and learning more about TriMet's long-term transit expansion plans in Washington County.

C. Community Affairs Update

- Community Affairs Coordinator Nik Whitcomb shared an update on recent outreach efforts and the upcoming summer engagement plans.
- CAC Chair Annadiana Johnson shared comparisons between the visioning exercises by the P&B and CAC completed and the community input about vehicle selection.

D. Vehicle Selection Wrap-Up

- Project Director Josh Brennan presented focusing on vehicle propulsion.
 - a. The committee discussed tradeoffs between Battery Electric Buses (BEB) and 40-foot R99 (renewable diesel) buses, including concerns related to maintenance, reliability, staff training requirements, and long-term costs.
 - b. Some members questioned whether purchasing 17 buses still aligns with the project's original vision following the shift away from 60-foot vehicles. TriMet staff noted that the proposed vehicles would include wider doors and all-door boarding.
 - c. Accessibility improvements discussed included three mobility spaces and ramps at both doors.



- d. Members repeatedly emphasized that community concerns remain focused on rider experience issues such as shelters, lighting, pedestrian safety, sidewalks, and crosswalks.
- e. Discussion also expanded into broader equity and infrastructure concerns, including investment disparities between Washington County and Multnomah County, the lack of north/south connectivity on the west side, and future investment plans for Merlo Garage.

E. Project Schedule & Funding

- Interim Major Project Director Michael Kiser shared an update on project schedule and funding. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the project schedule to avoid escalating costs and highlighted the current \$56 million funding gap for the construction phase.
 - a. The committee discussed uncertainty surrounding the project funding plan, particularly the assumed federal match through the FTA Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. Staff emphasized TriMet's long history of success securing federal transit funding while acknowledging that final funding amounts are still being developed.
 - b. Members requested additional ridership and growth projection data to better understand future demand and project justification. Staff noted that additional traffic and ridership modeling will happen in the next design phase and during the NEPA process.
 - c. Members also noted that the current funding strategy does not yet include direct state funding despite TV Highway/OR-8 being an ODOT corridor.
 - d. Multiple members expressed willingness to advocate directly with legislators and the governor to elevate the project as a regional priority and emphasized that strong collaboration between jurisdictions will be critical to future funding success.

F. Adjourn

Next Meeting: TBD – Will be scheduled closer to the end of the 30% design phase.