

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. P. Smith  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monnes Anderson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

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Action: Do Pass the B-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 16 – 0 – 3

House – Yeas: D. Edwards, Galizio, Hanna, Jenson, Morgan, Nathanson, Nolan, Shields, P. Smith  
– Nays:  
– Exc:

Senate – Yeas: Carter, Gordly, Johnson, Monroe, Schrader, Verger, Whitsett  
– Nays:  
– Exc: Bates, Nelson, Winters

Prepared By: Susie Jordan, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: February 19, 2008

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet) to perform evaluations of criminal activity occurring on or near the light rail system, of operational safety, and of personal safety and security of light rail passengers. It directs TriMet to report annually to the Legislative Assembly regarding light rail safety evaluations. It is repealed January 2, 2012. Declares an emergency and takes effect upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Local safety Issue
- Local Funding Levy for Public Safety
- Efforts by Tri-Met to improve Safety

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** TriMet provides public transportation services throughout the Portland metropolitan region encompassing Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties. Its MAX light rail system spans through Portland east to Gresham, west to Hillsboro, and north to the Expo Center and the Portland Airport, for a total of 64 stations, 18 transit centers and 44 miles. Projects are under development to extend lines south to Clackamas Town Center and Milwaukie, and to establish a commuter rail line from Beaverton south to Wilsonville. There are approximately 100,000 rider trips each weekday on MAX trains.

TriMet provides contracted security personnel for its stations and vehicles. Recently, there have been a number of high profile assault cases involving MAX trains. Following an incident involving an attack on an elderly rider in Gresham; Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis announced that Gresham police would begin putting its own police officers on light rail trains to provide a police presence, with the goal of improving security. TriMet has also begun increasing its security presence, considered proposals to end its fare-less square area in downtown Portland, and looked at other security proposals.

Senate Bill 1074 directs TriMet to perform security evaluations on an annual basis regarding safety issues related to the light rail system, including operational safety of the system and of personal safety and security of light rail passengers from criminal activity. The measure requires an annual report to the Legislative Assembly.