

TriMet's Regional Project Funding Flexibility (SB 1510)

Background:

In current statute, TriMet is authorized to invest in a wide variety of transportation facilities where it operates, including sidewalks, roads, highways, bike paths, etc. (ORS 267.300).

TriMet is restricted from spending funds on transportation facilities on which it does not physically operate (e.g. sections of Hwy 217), unless the funds are restricted by the Oregon Constitution (e.g. gas tax funds).

The Problem:

Regional conversations are under way regarding how to finance investments to address the transportation needs of the Portland metropolitan area.

While no decisions have been made, one option would be for TriMet to place a region-wide funding measure on a future ballot.

Should the region agree to pursue this option, a statutory change would be necessary to **allow TriMet spend funds on transportation facilities on which it does not physically operate.**

The Solution:

Amend ORS 267.300 to allow TriMet to invest certain funds in transportation projects around the region. These funds are:

- Proceeds of **general obligation bonds approved by voters** under ORS 267.330;
- **Grants or contributions;**
- Proceeds of bonds issued under ORS 267.335 that are subject to a **reimbursement agreement.**

All other funds (including payroll tax), would still be prohibited from being spent outside where TriMet operates.

Questions: Contact Aaron Deas at deasa@trimet.org or (503) 888-5067.