

I've been an operator at Trimet for the better part of 4 years. I'm thankful to be a part of my city, to move the people, to improve their day one circle at a time.

The first time I ran for my life was summer of this last year, a passenger threatened to kill everyone on our bus, and was seen with a gun before arguing with himself over his own reservations about "the evil deed he was about to do."

I hit silent alarm, announced we would be postponed for a moment while I checked the back of the bus, I motioned to my passengers who weren't arguing with themselves over the fate of others to follow me and referenced the passenger making a gun symbol with my hands. I flagged down a supervisor and we all hid behind a tree praying until the police showed up.

Another time while driving line 8 a man threatened to kidnap and rape me.

At burnside a man threw his girlfriend down on the back of my bus and charged at me when I asked if she was okay.

I'm thankful to say I've never been physically assaulted, but I have many brothers and sisters at Trimet who have. It's astonishing to hear that in the event I ever am physically hurt or exposed to harmful diseases via spit in the face to know that person wouldn't receive jail time, or that I'm not on the same level of other city workers.

How am I different from the post man, the officer?

Don't we all contribute to the city? I'm pretty sure making it move is important right?

Why is it that my mailman is protected and I'm not?

I'm not saying this one bill will change everything but it's gotta start somewhere.

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