

TriMet Equity Advisory Committee (TEAC)

Co-Chair McLain, Co-Chair Gorsek, and Members of the Joint Transportation Committee:

We, TriMet's Transit Equity Advisory Committee (TEAC), are writing to advocate for increased state investment in public transportation. Specifically, we support the dedication of additional state funding to the following operational priorities: Safety and security, Fare Programs, Service Expansion, and Language Accessible Education and outreach. These initiatives align closely with our vision for a more sustainable, efficient, and equitable transportation system in our community.

TriMet's investments of Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) revenue to date has enabled income-based fare reductions, launched Summer Youth Pass program, and advanced transition to zero-emission buses. Additional state investment in the STIF program is critical to our ongoing efforts to serve our communities and address their priorities.

TEAC consists of community members who play a vital role in advising TriMet on matters of equity, access, and inclusion. Our committee members represent a diverse cross-section of community leaders, advocates, and liaisons for disadvantaged and historically underrepresented communities. The committee serves as a vital link between TriMet and community organizations. TEAC helps to ensure the voices of transit-dependent riders are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

We believe that Safety & Security is a priority. The STIF program has provided funding for TriMet's safety and security efforts by supporting its Safety Response Team. Team members connect people on and around the transit system with social services for housing, mental health and addiction services, while helping discourage inappropriate and illegal behavior.

Public transit is access to opportunity. The STIF program has helped fund TriMet's Honored Citizen Program, which provides riders with annual savings of 72% compared to TriMet's standard fare. People can qualify based on income, age, mental and physical disability, and military service.

STIF funding has also enabled TriMet to collaborate with the community to undertake Forward Together, the most comprehensive restructuring of its bus service in history. The plan calls for TriMet to expand night and weekend service, with a focus on improving service in disadvantaged communities.

For our communities, language accessible for education & outreach in understanding, navigating, and to fully and confidently utilize public transit is necessary and needed. Dedicated resources set aside for language access, culturally nuanced education as well as reciprocal communication and intentional outreach moves the region toward equitable access for all. TEAC applauds the work of the Joint Transportation Committee to deliver necessary increased funding for our State's transportation system. We implore you to fund these initiatives to help

create a transportation system that benefits all of Oregon's residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

TEAC MEMBERS:

Abby Griffith	OPAL
Ana Munoz	Latino Network
April Bertelsen	PBOT
Bhaktirose Dawdy	Mt. Hood Community College
Carrie Cantrell	PCC
Irena Cheredayko	IRCO
Jan Campbell	CAT
John MacArthur	PSU
Jonath Colon	Centro Cultural
Lindsay Huber	The Street Trust
Marcela Tupayachi Unda	Latino Network
Nicole Erickson	POIC
Pastor Robin Wisner	Under the Blood Ministries
Sara Ford Oades	Clackamas Community College
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