

## TriMet HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 22, 2024

### Attendees

- Tom Mills: TriMet Service Planning Director
- Jan Campbell: TriMet Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) Member
- Karen Buehrig: Clackamas County
- Philip Selinger: TriMet Board District 2 Representative
- Jennifer Cooper: ODOT Region 1 Regional Transit Coordinator
- Ally Holmqvist: Metro (Alternate for Councilor Hwang)
- Dwight Brashear: Wilsonville SMART
- Claudia Robertson: TriMet Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) Member
- Heidi Muller: City of Canby
- Brandon Brezic: Central City Concern
- Sushmita Poddar: TriMet Board District 1 Representative
- Kristina Babcock: Clackamas County
- Miranda Seekins: Washington County
- Todd Wood: City of Canby
- David Bouchard: TriMet
- Reza Farhoodi: TriMet Board District 5 Representative
- Roy Rogers: Washington County Board of Commissioners
- Kelsey Lewis: Wilsonville SMART
- Deanna Palm: Washington County Chamber of Commerce
- Michael Morrow: TriMet Board District 7 Representative (Chair)
- Justin Trubiani: TriMet
- JP Gonzalez: TriMet
- Mary Lou: Accessible Transportation Funds Advisory Committee
- Paul Savas: Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
- Rich Eisenhauer: Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT)
- Cosette LeMay: Albertina Kerr
- Adam Argo: TriMet Board District 4 Representative
- Teresa Christopherson: Clackamas County
- Laura Heller: Metropolitan Family Service
- Eve Nilenders: Multnomah County
- Julia Brim-Edwards: Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
- Dan Bower: Portland Streetcar, Inc.
- Marcy Hughes: Metropolitan Family Service
- Julie Wilcke Pilmer: Ride Connection
- John Whitman: Ride Connection
- Waranya Marcano: Asian Health and Service Center (AHSC)
- Vikki Payne: Multnomah County District 3
- Dyami Valentine: Washington County
- Emily Motter: Ride Connection
- Anna Gibbons: [Organization not specified]

- Andrew Aebi: TriMet Board District 3 Representative
  - April Bertelsen: City of Portland
  - Sarah Iannarone: The Street Trust
  - Holden Leung: CEO, Asian Health and Service Center (AHSC)
  - Jarvez Hall: TriMet Board District 6 Representative
  - Robert Munoz Jr: [Organization not specified]
  - Debbie Gregg: TriMet
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## Call to Order

Tom Mills opened the meeting, noting it was the final HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee meeting of 2024. He emphasized the importance of approving the STIF plan at this meeting to meet critical deadlines: TriMet Board approval on December 11 and submission to ODOT by January 16, 2025.

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## Agenda Overview

1. Public Comment
  2. Timeline Check-In
  3. ATFAC Recommendations Review
  4. PTSP Presentations
  5. TriMet STIF Budget Review
  6. Voting on FY26-27 STIF Plan
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## Public Comment

Holden Leung, CEO of the Asian Health and Service Center, expressed concern about potential budget cuts for a transportation program serving Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese-speaking seniors. Despite the program's success, funding reductions for 2026-2027 could impact services. He urged the committee to grant full funding.

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## Timeline Check-In

Tom Mills reiterated key deadlines:

- TriMet Board must approve the plan on December 11, 2024.
- Submission to ODOT is due January 16, 2025.

He stressed the importance of approving the plan during this meeting to stay on schedule.

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## Review of ATFAC Recommendations

Tom reviewed the Accessible Transportation Funds Advisory Committee (ATFAC) recommendations, highlighting the following:

- **Total allocated:** \$22 million (including \$14.7 million in STIF population-based funds for committee approval).
- **Sources of funding:** Cigarette tax, ID card fees, gas tax on non-automotive engines, and unspent funds from prior years.
- **Challenges:** An \$11 million shortfall required scaling back allocations, especially for programs serving seniors and people with disabilities.

## Comments:

- Julie Wilcke-Pilmer emphasized the impact of service reductions on vulnerable communities, including culturally specific programs.
- Commissioner Paul Savas requested clarity on total STIF allocations and future projections.

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## PTSP Presentations

Public Transportation Service Providers (PTSPs) detailed their plans for 2026-2027:

- **Clackamas County:** Continued expanded services like the Mount Hood Express and increased demand-response rides for seniors. Upcoming projects include a transit hub study and filling service gaps identified in the county transit plan.
- **Wilsonville SMART:** Focused on maintaining existing services while introducing new routes to Clackamas Town Center and Woodburn. Planning for vehicle replacements and expanded infrastructure.
- **South Clackamas Transportation District (SCTD):** Emphasis on safety improvements for rural stops and transitioning to smaller, fuel-efficient buses.
- **Sandy Area Metro:** Maintained expanded services, including routes to Clackamas Town Center, with plans for a new operations center.
- **Multnomah County:** Transitioning resources to focus on underserved industrial areas, adding a shopping shuttle, and improving rural demand-response services.
- **Portland Streetcar:** Allocated \$3 million annually for operations while beginning fleet replacements funded by other sources.
- **Washington County:** Doubling rural demand-response funding, maintaining interregional connections, and enhancing transit infrastructure with new capital investments.

### Committee Discussion:

Commissioner Savas raised concerns about transparency and clarity in fund management, particularly regarding “unspent funds” and their allocation.

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### TriMet STIF Plan Budget Review

Tom Mills presented TriMet’s FY26-27 STIF budget, totaling \$199.5 million:

- **73% for fixed-route service:** Prioritized to reduce carryover and support Forward Together program expansions.
- **11% for subsidized fare programs:** Includes low-income fare, honored citizen passes, and free student passes.
- **Other allocations:** Regional coordination (6%), Portland Streetcar (3%), and human services funds (2%).

### Key Concerns:

- Commissioner Savas highlighted the need for geographic equity and requested a breakdown of fixed-route funding by county.
  - Tom clarified that unspent funds were being redirected to fixed-route service to ensure efficient spending.
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### Vote on FY26-27 STIF Plan

The committee approved the FY26-27 STIF plan with unanimous support, though Commissioner Savas expressed unease about limited time to analyze new financial details. The motion to approve the FY26-27 STIF plan was made by Andrew Aebi and seconded by Julia Brimm-Edwards.

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### Closing

Tom Mills thanked committee members for their work over the past year. The meeting adjourned with the next steps focused on submitting the approved plan and preparing for the 2025 legislative session.