



Minutes

Meeting:	TriMet Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting	Date:	January 28, 2026
Board Members Present:	JT Flowers Tyler Frisbee Erin Graham Robert Kellogg LaVerne Lewis Thomas Kim	Board Members Absent:	

TriMet Board Business meetings and public forum are available via web video stream. You can access the archived meetings and materials at trimet.org/meetings/board.

Following Public Forum, President Lewis called the business meeting to order at 9:26am.

1. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) – Director Graham provided a summary of both the December 17, 2025 and January 21, 2026 CAT business meetings. The December meeting kicked off with the FY27 recruitment process for the committee. There are eight members whose terms are expiring as well as open Executive Committee positions. The Committee is seeking representatives with lived experience as older adults and/or people with an array of disabilities. Applications are available at trimet.org/CAT/membership and close January 31, 2026. The Wayfinding Subcommittee shared an update that by the end of 2025, there will be Automated Stop Announcements (ASAs) on all bus routes announcing all stops. Updates were also provided on the forward-looking work underway on the TriMet website and digital channels to ensure the Web Content Accessibility Guideline DOJ update is completed in advance of the 2027 deadline. The 82nd Avenue Community Advisory Committee announced that CAT member Franklin Ouchida was elected as the CAC chair. It was also announced that two CAT members have joined additional committees; Patricia Kepler is the new CAT representative for the HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee and Annadiana Johnson has been selected to serve on the TV Highway Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Additionally, TriMet staff provided a Fixed Route Bus Report, update on the Instacart program, new ADA sensitivity trainings starting in January for MAX and Bus operators, and a presentation was delivered on the upcoming Rail Crossing Safety Enhancement Project.

The January CAT meeting focused on Safety and Security updates and the FY27 service reduction proposal. Safety and Security announced that 59 blue light phones have been installed throughout the system, with an additional 20 phones coming by the end of June 2026. From October 2025 through January 15, 2026, there have been 563 calls made on the phones. CAT was provided with an overview of the FY27 service reductions by the service planning and community engagement teams. The Committee asked that topography be

considered when planning service changes as that will impact riders with mobility limitations. The next CAT business meeting is scheduled for February 18.

Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Flowers provided a summary of the December 17, 2025 MPAC meeting. The Committee received two briefings from Metro staff on the Future Vision update and on the 2040 Planning & Development Grants Program. There was also a presentation from the City of Vancouver, WA staff on the City’s Comprehensive Plan Update.

The Future Vision is an aspirational process that Metro is leading to define the preferred vision for our region for the next 50 years. Metro staff presented on the draft engagement strategy that prioritizes relationship building, meeting community members where they are at, and prioritizing engaging with youth. Metro staff are also currently recruiting members for the Future Vision Youth Committee, and interested youth are encouraged to apply by February 8th and can do so on Metro’s website.

Metro staff provided an update on Metro’s 2040 Planning and Development Grants Program Update. This grant program is funded by a regional construction excise tax, and funds local city and county planning work that implements the regional 2040 Growth Concept.

Lastly, staff from the City of Vancouver provided a brief update on Vancouver’s 2025-2045 Comp Plan Update. The City will be releasing the draft plan and draft implementing development code for public review this February. The next MPAC meeting is tonight, January 28.

Finance and Audit Committee (F&A) – Director Kim shared a summary of this morning’s F&A meeting. First, the Committee reviewed the Fiscal Year 2026 Bond Resolution that will come before the Board this morning. If passed, today’s resolution will allow TriMet to issue up to \$150 million in payroll tax revenue bonds. Staff reviewed a presentation that showed TriMet would remain below the 7.5% debt limit after the bond issuance per our debt policy. The bond will help fund light rail vehicle replacement, TV Highway Transit improvements, 82nd Avenue Transit improvements, Columbia Bus Base, and the ERP replacement. The Committee then reviewed the updated budget balance scorecard focused on changes to our existing revenue stream, which will also be presented by CFO, Nancy Young Oliver, at today’s board meeting. The last agenda item was reviewing the redesigned financials, now included in the board packet. It will provide a more high-level financial picture of the district and include more graphs and charts to make our review of the financials more efficient. The next F&A Committee meeting is scheduled for February 19.

Board Announcements – President Lewis asked the Board to respond to Senior Executive Administrator, Adriana Vidales-Hernandez, with availability for upcoming Board Education Sessions. She also provided a reminder of the last two Town Hall meetings approaching; tonight in District 6 at Rosewood Initiative, and tomorrow in District 5 at the University of Oregon Library Learning Center. Both meetings are scheduled for 4:00pm – 6:00pm. President Lewis also reminded the Board to review the 2026 Board Meeting Calendar and to note the additional March 18 meeting, which will be Public Forum only.

General Manager Report

Budget Scorecard Update

General Manager Desue introduced Nancy Young-Oliver, Chief Financial Officer, to present an update to the budget scorecard. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org. Mr. Desue added that we are not counting on the STIF increase that was passed by legislatures last year because of the referral to the voters. However, our conversations with lawmakers continue and our budget deficit will be front and center when the short session begins next week. As we lay ground work for a 2027 transit funding ask, our Government Affairs team will be working on a bill to set up a transit funding task force. The Task Force would bring together diverse stakeholders including transit providers, business organizations,

employers, elected leaders, local governments and transit users, all with the intent to build consensus on a preferred revenue mechanism for funding transit across the state. This work will help put transit in a better position for our 2027 Legislative funding ask.

Service Cuts Outreach and Survey

Mr. Desue shared an update on service cut outreach and the on-going survey. Staff has been working hard to inform riders, community partners and leaders, and the public about the changes we are proposing to reduce service levels, as is necessary to balance our budget. The survey that we have shared to collect feedback on the proposals will close in three days. We are encouraging anyone who has yet to take it, to do so in these last few days by visiting trimet.org/servicecuts. To date, the service cuts web page, which details the proposed cuts and changes with maps and descriptions, has been visited more than 237,000 times. The survey has been completed nearly 6,000 times. We have interacted with more than 600 people through virtual and in-person open house events. The last one is tomorrow at 4 p.m., at the University of Oregon's Northeast Portland campus. Our planners and analysts are already pouring over the data, working to understand the feedback and wrap what we have learned into a proposal that will be brought to you and the community in March.

November and December Ridership

Mr. Desue provided an overview of ridership for the months of November and December. In November, TriMet provided more than 5 million rides, a decrease of 4.8% over November 2024. Ridership was down in nearly every category and there are a couple of factors we noticed. First, November 2025 had only 19 weekdays, whereas 2024 and 2023 both had 20 weekdays. We also saw fewer trips taken because online shopping has taken a bigger piece of commerce and we also saw a number of store and restaurant closures.

However, ridership appeared stronger in December. TriMet provided 5.2 million rides, an increase of 1.3% over December 2024. December traditionally sees lower ridership due to the holidays. We are still seeing ridership grow, though at a slower pace than in past years. Small ups and downs are expected from day to day, reflecting normal changes in how people travel rather than a larger shift in overall trends. It is something we continue to monitor.

Monthly Operations Analysis

Mr. Desue introduced Les Spitler, Director of Transit System Support Services, and Katherine Keeling, Senior Analyst for Operations and Planning, to present the Monthly Operations Analysis. A copy of the report is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Rosa Parks Day

Mr. Desue provided a reminder that Wednesday, February 4 is Rosa Parks Day. It will be the fifth straight year that TriMet will not collect fares on February 4th, which was Rosa Parks' birthday. The Board adopted this annual day back in 2020 as a remembrance for Rosa Parks, whose act of defiance against segregation on city buses in Alabama led to her arrest. An arrest that spurred the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted for more than a year. This year we urge everyone to ride free, reflect on Rosa's action and reconnect with TriMet.

Monthly Safety and Security Update

Mr. Desue invited Andrew Wilson, Chief Safety and Security Officer, to come forward and present a monthly Safety and Security Update. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

82nd Avenue Station Renovation

Mr. Desue announced the reopening of the NE 82nd Avenue MAX Station. With just a few final touches remaining, we reopened the station with a newly rebuilt stairway to the MAX station platform, earlier this month. The NE 82nd Avenue MAX Station first opened with the introduction of MAX to our region back in 1986. To this day, it is one of our most-used stations and the renovation was one of our most significant station overhauls to date. Crews rebuilt the platform and stairs, improved lighting, added another shelter for additional weather protection and installed new digital displays, security cameras and blue light phones. Projects like the NE 82nd Avenue MAX Station renovation are investments. They bring our infrastructure into a state of good repair, improving safety and the customer experience.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2025
- Resolution Directing Ordinances to be Read by Title Only

Action: Director Kim moved for approval of the Consent Agenda. Director Frisbee seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

4. Resolutions

Resolution 26-01-01 – Authorizing the Issuance of Payroll Tax Revenue Bonds

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 26-01-01. This Resolution requests authorization to issue payroll tax revenue bonds to provide up to \$150 million dollars for a range of projects plus additional funds that are required to pay costs related to the bonds. Mr. Desue introduced CFO Nancy Young-Oliver and Director of Financial Services, Cara Fitzpatrick, to provide further detail on the bond issuance process and the capital projects the bonds will support. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Action: Director Kim moved for approval of Resolution 26-01-01. Director Flowers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 26-01-02 – Authorizing a Contract Modification with Siemens Mobility, Inc. to use Contract Options to Purchase up to 56 Light Rail Vehicles

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 26-01-02. We purchased what we refer to as our Type 6 Light Rail Vehicles, or LRVs, from Siemens Mobility Inc. to replace our first ever LRVs, the Type 1s. Now our second fleet of LRVs, the Type 2s, are reaching the end of their useful life. By exercising contract options within the existing contract we have with Siemens, we can purchase additional Type 6 vehicles and the associated spare parts, to maintain the reliability of our MAX system. The initial Resolution approved by the Board in 2019 was in the amount of \$147 million dollars for the procurement of 26 LRVs. That Resolution gave us the ability to exercise Contract Options to purchase as many as 60 additional LRVs. A previous modification increased the contract amount to \$166.5 million dollars for the procurement of 4 LRVs. We are now seeking a modification to exercise the option to purchase up to 56 more Type 6 LRVs, which will increase the contract authority by \$370.9 million dollars, bringing the total contract amount to \$537.4 million dollars. Mr. Desue introduced Executive Director of Capital Project Delivery, Jamie Snook and Manager of Engineering and Construction, Laura Hixson, to explain that this purchase is about state of good repair for the MAX fleet. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org. Mr. Desue added execution of this modification will be contingent upon the successful completion of the Pre-award Buy America Audit currently in process. The modification would also extend the contract expiration to June 30, 2034. The budget for the additional LRVs will be included in the Maintenance Division's capital budget and is included in its request for FY27 and all future years when required, and it is funded through existing and future bonds.

Action: Director Flowers moved for approval of Resolution 26-01-02. Director Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Resolution 26-01-03 – Authorizing the Acquisition by Voluntary Purchase of Certain Real Property Necessary for the North Mall Operator Layover Facility

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 26-01-03. As you were briefed at last month’s meeting, TriMet has a unique opportunity to acquire a property that will allow us to meet an agreement we made with the City of Portland in 2016. That is to move our buses that layover in NW Portland off the street near Union Station. Our staff closely evaluated three sites and consistently identified the former Greyhound Bus Terminal as the best site for the North Mall Operator Layover Facility. When the team initially identified it as the best site, the land cost was extremely high, \$35 million dollars. In the last five years, market conditions have changed significantly. With the assistance of broker, Apex Real Estate Partners, TriMet has negotiated a purchase price of \$7 million dollars for the property, which is believed to be the fair market value and a reasonable price in the current market. That being said, the proposed transaction will be funded exclusively by Federal Restricted Account Funds held by TriMet. The Restricted Account holds the federal share of land sale proceeds from the historic sales of excess TriMet property purchased with federal grant funds. Under federal rules, these funds are restricted from being used for service operations or other agency expenditures. With your approval, TriMet expects to close on the Property this summer. I recommend your approval as this opportunity not only meets our contractual agreement, it addresses an on-going operational need and increases safety for our operators and other frontline employees.

Action: Director Flowers moved for approval of Resolution 26-01-03. Director Kim seconded the motion. Director Frisbee was absent from the vote. The motion passed with five votes in favor and one absent.

5. ORDINANCES

Ordinance 380 - Amending Chapter 14 of the TriMet Code to Revise the Definition of “Net Earnings from Self-Employment” (Second Reading)

General Counsel Shelley Devine read Ordinance No. 380 by Title Only.

Mr. Desue discussed Ordinance 380. This Ordinance is a housekeeping measure by which the Board amends Chapter 14 of the TriMet Code to revise the definition of “net earnings from self-employment” in order to conform it with the current definition in the Internal Revenue Code. TriMet engages outside tax counsel, Stoel Rives LLP, to review recent federal tax legislation and determine if there have been significant changes to federal tax law that could affect TriMet’s self-employment tax. On January 15, 2026, TriMet received an updated opinion from Stoel Rives confirming that there have been no changes to the tax code since the December 10th reading of this ordinance that would require a change to the ordinance. Tax counsel confirmed on January 16, 2026, that Congress has not passed legislation to date that affects the measurement of net earnings from self-employment.

Action: Director Kim made a motion to adopt Ordinance 380. Director Kellogg seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted by General Counsel Devine.

Director Graham – yes

Director Kim – yes

Director Frisbee – yes

Director Kellogg – yes

Director Flowers – yes

Director Lewis – yes

The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Hearing no further business, President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 10:49am.

6. **BRIEFING**

82nd Avenue Project Update and Vision

Mr. Desue introduced the first briefing of the morning. We want to continue updating you on the progress of the 82nd Avenue Project. First, TriMet staff will provide the latest not only on our discussions around BAT lanes, but on our hydrogen efforts. Also, we all know that the transit project is just a small part of the vision for a renewed and revitalized 82nd Avenue. Today we will hear from City of Portland representatives sharing that grander vision for the corridor. Mr. Desue first introduced TriMet Executive Director of Capital Delivery, Jamie Snook, along with Interim Director of Major Projects, Michael Kiser, and Interim Project Director, Jesse Stemmler to provide the TriMet presentation. Following the staff presentation, Mr. Desue introduced Kirstin Hull, Planning and Project Delivery Group Director at Portland Bureau of Transportation, along with Lisa Abuaf, Director of Development and Investment at Prosper Portland, and Ryan Singer, Principal Planner at the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to present on the vision for the corridor. The briefing concluded following an update on hydrogen efforts provided by TriMet Chief Strategy Officer, Claire Khouri and Executive Director of Public Access and Innovation, John Gardner. A copy of the presentation is located in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Falesha Thrash

Falesha Thrash, Board Administrator and recording secretary