



Minutes

Meeting:	TriMet Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting	Date:	May 27, 2026
Board Members Present:	JT Flowers Tyler Frisbee Erin Graham Robert Kellogg Thomas Kim - virtual LaVerne Lewis	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 12:20 pm.

1. Committee Reports

Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT) – Director Graham provided a summary of the May 20 CAT business meeting. The meeting opened with a vote on the FY27 Executive Committee members. Patricia Kepler was elected as Vice Chair and Annadiana Johnson and Richard Hunter were elected as the Executive Committee Members at Large. The Wayfinding Subcommittee shared that TriMet’s Accessible Transportation Program has partnered with Portland State University’s Orientation and Mobility Program to develop tactile wayfinding maps for complex transit centers. Once finalized, the maps will be available for download and print-on-demand, and TriMet LIFT will provide printed copies by mail for riders without access to tactile printers. The subcommittee also received an update on the Department of Justice Web Content Accessibility Guideline compliance requirements.

The 82nd Ave. Community Advisory Committee shared that they recently participated in Government Ethics training and that Thomas Ngo of The Street Trust has been elected Co-Chair. The TV Highway Community Advisory Committee recently focused on evaluating 40-foot bus options and noted that the selected fleet will consist of diesel buses powered by renewable diesel fuel.

CAT recently participated in a tour of several of the Next Generation Bus Shelters. CAT expressed strong appreciation for how its feedback has been incorporated into the shelter designs, particularly in the areas of seating options, weather protection, accessibility, and overall rider comfort. Eileen Collins Turvey then provided an update from the recent American Public Transit Association (APTA) Mobility Conference.

In response to an increase in ADA pass-ups over the past year, CAT has formed an ad hoc committee in collaboration with TriMet leadership to identify and implement mitigation strategies. The agency is currently testing several operational and service adjustments to evaluate the effectiveness of potential solutions. The

meeting concluded following an update on the proposed phasing of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project. The next CAT business meeting is scheduled for June 17.

Metropolitan Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) – Director Flowers shared a summary of the April 22 MPAC meeting. The committee first considered Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendments to include the Locally Preferred Alternatives for three transit projects: 82nd Ave, TV Hwy, and Montgomery Park Streetcar. Transportation projects must be included in the RTP to be eligible to compete for federal and state funding opportunities. All three ordinances were advanced to Metro council. Metro staff also sought action on a Resolution for the Purpose of Declaring Extreme Heat and Climate Change as Critical and Growing Threats and Designating a Region-wide Heat Season.

Metro staff provided an update on Future Vision engagement efforts and a new Regional Land Banking effort. Land banking is a tool to speed up housing development in the region and was a key interest during Regional Housing Coordination Strategy conversations. The study will focus on understanding how a regional land banking program could be structured to be a useful, equitable, and practical tool to support housing production across the region and defining options for implementing land banking at the regional scale.

Lastly, Metro provided an overview, scoping work plan and kickoff for the 2028 Regional Transportation Plan. As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the Portland metropolitan area, Metro is required to update the RTP every five years to maintain compliance with federal and state requirements. The next update must be adopted by November 2028. The next MAPC meeting is scheduled for tonight, May 27.

Governor’s Vision Committee – Director Frisbee shared a summary from the first meeting of Governor Tina Kotek’s Rebuilding Our Transportation Vision Workgroup, which took place May 1. Nine committee members were in attendance and the meeting focused on passing the committee’s charter. The committee clarified that its task is to address state-wide transportation challenges including transit across the state and not solve challenges of one single agency. Smaller subcommittees will begin meeting this month. Julie Brown, Chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission and General Manager for the Rogue Valley Transportation District, is the workgroup liaison of the Transit Subcommittee. Director Frisbee shared that she has asked the workgroup to develop different metrics to talk about transit needs across the state. The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 1.

General Manager Report

April Ridership

Mr. Desue provided an overview of ridership for the month of April. TriMet provided 5.7 million fixed-route rides in April. Year-over-year, our analysts found virtually no change in the number of weekly rides provided. Whereas the number of rides on MAX was down about 3.5%, ridership on bus and WES were both up in April, essentially making up the difference.

Monthly Operations Analysis

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

Transit Maintenance Appreciation Day

Mr. Desue shared details from the recent Transit Maintenance Appreciation Day. Earlier this month, people across TriMet came together to show appreciation for our Maintenance Team. We held the first-ever at TriMet and possibly the first in the world, Transit Maintenance Appreciation Day. It was a day to celebrate the unsung heroes, the people behind the scenes, who literally keep TriMet running. People in the

Maintenance Division work all hours, morning and night, 365 days a year. We made certain to hold multiple events for day shift and night shift to make sure everyone felt the love. Whether it was a BBQ picnic, a slice of free pizza, raffle winnings or time spent reading thank you messages crafted by fellow employees, there was a little something for everyone. Mr. Desue shared that the dedication of this elite group to support our mission to deliver safe, reliable transportation options for our community and help people access opportunities, moves him as General Manager of this organization. He emphasized that their work is inspiring and it is absolutely vital to TriMet's success. Photos shared from the Transit Maintenance Appreciate Day can be found in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Monthly Safety and Security Report

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

ATP Partner Funding

Mr. Desue shared with our ongoing budget constraints, TriMet must adjust its approach for funding transportation programs that serve older adults and people with disabilities. He then introduced Tom Mills, Director of Mobility Policy and Planning, to present an update on funding awarded by the Accessible Transportation Funding Advisory Committee and the work taking place to continue supporting reliable transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities. A copy of the presentation is in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

East County Library Grand Opening

Mr. Desue shared details of the grand opening of the new East County Library on May 16. President Lewis was there as we celebrated this special day. Mr. Desue said that he is so incredibly honored that TriMet played a role in this transformational project in East County. As Gresham Mayor and former TriMet Board member, Travis Stovall defined it, the magnificent new, 95,000 square foot library is a place that can take you "from poverty to prosperity."

The library features a full audio-visual studio, community meeting rooms, rooftop terrace and a 200-seat auditorium, 200 thousand books and countless educational opportunities. This vibrant and innovative new community space was built from the ground up at the site of the TriMet Gresham City Hall Park & Ride. Long under-utilized, it was a unique opportunity for TriMet and our Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Department to sell off a portion of the Park & Ride to generate new revenue and help reimagine its future. The spectacular structure and community-focused outdoor space pay tribute to Native American history and culture. It showcases vibrant locally made art and impressive investments in technology and fulfill long-standing commitment to community.

Take your family and "Go by TriMet!" Take MAX Blue Line to the Gresham City Hall Station and the library is just steps away. FX2-Division is also a great option for accessing the library. The library serves as a shining example of how TriMet provides access to opportunity. We anticipate more opportunities to come with the re-activation of the property. TriMet retains a portion of the site for future development. Mr. Desue then thanked the TOD team of Lance Erz, Guy Benn, Fiona Lyon and Keith Alnwick for their work on the project. Photos shared from the East County Library Grand Opening can be found in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2026

Action: Director Kellogg moved for approval of the Consent Agenda. Director Graham seconded the motion. Director Frisbee was absent from the vote. The motion passed with five votes in favor and one absent.

4. Resolutions

Resolution 26-05-17 – Adopting the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget and Appropriating Funds

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 26-05-17. It is the responsibility of the TriMet Board of Directors to adopt a balanced budget by the start of TriMet's new fiscal year. That is July 1, 2026; 35 days from today. Under Oregon budget law, Board action is required to adopt the budget and appropriate funds. Some of the changes reflect the savings from the FY27 service plan adopted by the Board last month as well as internal, administrative cuts that have now come into focus. A large portion of the internal spending cuts is a staffing reduction. We will be eliminating about 400 positions in the coming fiscal year. While a good number of those positions are currently vacant and many people in the eliminated jobs are eligible to return to prior union positions in accordance with the Working and Wage Agreement, we will lose about 170 people to layoffs. About 100 of those are nonunion and about 70 are union. Mr. Desue said that the spending cuts we are now preparing for, including reducing our service and our staff, are among the hardest actions he has overseen in his more than 30-year career. But we must act now to re-size and re-focus on our core transit service to ensure TriMet continues to serve this region for generations to come. Mr. Desue then introduced Chief Financial Officer Nancy Young-Oliver and Director of Budget and Forecasting Michael Dohn to walk through the changes now incorporated into the fiscal year 2027 budget. A copy of the presentation is in the meeting archives at www.trimet.org.

Action: Director Kellogg moved for approval of Resolution 26-05-17. Director Frisbee seconded the motion. The motion passed with five votes in favor and one against.

Resolution 26-05-18 – Authorizing a Contract with BayoTech, Inc. for the Supply and Delivery of Gaseous Low Carbon Intensity Hydrogen for the Fuel-Cell Articulated Bus Subfleet

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 26-05-18. This is the first of two resolutions you will consider this morning, relating to the 82nd Avenue Transit Project. When the 82nd Avenue Transit Project opens to the public as TriMet's next Frequent Express line, service will be provided by articulated, fuel-cell electric buses. The project facilitates TriMet's first deployment of hydrogen-powered transit vehicles. Before we can move forward with capital commitments on the 82nd Avenue Transit Project, including procurement, maintenance facility upgrades and constructing a hydrogen fueling station at the Powell Operations Facility, we must secure a reliable, regionally sourced supply of low-carbon hydrogen. Mr. Desue introduced Executive Director of Planning Alan Lehto to provide more details on the fuel supply and bus subfleet.

Following Mr. Lehto's presentation, Mr. Desue continued discussing Resolution 26-05-18. Staff developed a two-step Invitation-to-Bid process over five years, aligned with the bus production and deployment schedule. It begins with the pilot bus and then brings on 14 additional FCEBs ahead of launching FX service on 82nd Avenue, in 2029. By acting now, TriMet will be able to lock in predictable fuel pricing for budgeting, reduce exposure to market volatility, and support the development of a regional low-carbon hydrogen supply chain. This resolution will authorize a contract award to BayoTech for an amount up to \$8.3 million over five years. BayoTech was the only firm whose bid met the technical requirements and the only firm invited to complete the two-step process I mentioned earlier. They were not aware of the number of competitors in the process, and the bid is considered competitive.

There are two significant pricing adjustments included with this proposal. First, the per kilogram hydrogen fuel price will decrease over the 5-year contract supply period as TriMet scales its FCEB fleet and requires larger fuel volumes as a result. Second, we expect a significant reduction in freight costs in Year 2 as BayoTech shifts its supply source from Pittsburg, California to Arlington, Oregon. BayoTech's delivered price of gaseous hydrogen fuel was found to be fair and reasonable and came in below TriMet's Cost Estimate. The cost of the requested yearly estimated fuel amount is included in the Maintenance Division's proposed

FY 2027 Budget and will be included in future year Maintenance Division budgets. The funding source for this project is TriMet general fund.

Action: Director Flowers moved for approval of Resolution 26-05-18. Director Frisbee seconded the motion. Director Graham was absent from the vote. The motion passed with five votes in favor and one absent.

Resolution 26-05-19 – Authorizing a Contract for New Flyer of America, Inc. for the Purchase of Fifteen Sixty-Foot, Hydrogen Fuel Cell, Zero-Emissions Electric Buses

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 26-05-18. As Mr. Lehto mentioned, grant funding supports TriMet’s exploration and use of FCEBs on the 82nd Avenue Transit Project and future FX service on 82nd Avenue. A fully executed FTA Low or No Emission Grant awarded in September 2024, provides funds for:

- 14 of the 15 Fuel Cell Battery-Electric Buses (FCEB)
- Modifications to the Powell Operations Facility maintenance area necessary to maintain FCEBs,
- Hydrogen fueling stations, and
- Workforce Development training

One additional FCEB will be purchased using an ODOT Carbon Reduction Grant. This Resolution authorizes a contract with New Flyer in an amount not to exceed \$41.8 million for the purchase of 15, sixty-foot FCEBs. In the Low-No Grant application, TriMet proposed partnering with New Flyer as the FCEB vendor. New Flyer is the only Buy America compliant bus manufacturer. Thanks to TriMet’s participation in the Oregon Cooperative Procurement Program, we can take advantage of an existing cooperative agreement. It is important to point out that the purchase price for the 15 sixty-foot FCEBs will not exceed \$41.8 million and will be included in the future years Capital Improvement Program budgets for the Engineering & Construction Division. The FCEBs are funded through the FTA’s Low-No Grant at \$23.8 million; ODOT’s Carbon Reduction Grant at \$3 million and TriMet’s local share of the 82nd Avenue Transit Project, estimated at about \$15 million, funded by the Board-approved payroll tax revenue bonds to be issued this summer.

Action: Director Kim moved for approval of Resolution 26-05-19. Director Frisbee seconded the motion. Director Graham was absent from the vote. The motion passed with five votes in favor and one absent.

Resolution 26-05-20 – Authorizing a Contract Modification to the Construction Manager/General Contractor Services Contract with Mass. Electric Construction Company for the Type 1 Traction Power Substation Replacement Project

Mr. Desue discussed Resolution 26-05-20. The Type 1 Traction Power Substation Replacement Project is a multi-year, multi-site project. It aims to replace all 12 of the original Type 1 Traction Power Substations (TPSS) by 2034. Those substations, along the MAX Blue Line, were installed in 1983. Not only have they reached the end of their service life, many of the electrical parts and components are obsolete. The resolution before you this morning relates to the TPSS at the Steel Bridge and utility work at a second location for the Morrison TPSS to make way for future work. While TriMet had planned to address these sites at a later date, we have moved the project earlier to align with the City of Portland’s plan to develop a new skatepark at the Steel Bridge over the next 3-4 years. Advancing the project at this time and in this manner helps reduce the risk of unplanned service disruptions and ensures coordination with the city. This resolution would authorize a modification to increase the total contract amount by \$7.9 million. That amount includes:

- \$3.4 million for the purchase of long lead materials
- \$3.85 million for associated construction services
- And \$720,000 or about 10% in change order allowance for all the above

The resolution will bring the CM/GC total contract amount for the Type 1 TPSS Replacement Project to \$45.5 million. The original CM/GC services contract was procured through a competitive RFP process. Budget for this modification is included in the Maintenance Division's FY2026 Budget and future Fiscal Year budget forecasts. Funds are anticipated to be General Funds.

Action: Director Frisbee moved for approval of Resolution 26-05-20. Director Kellogg seconded the motion. Director Graham was absent from the vote. The motion passed with five votes in favor and one absent.

Hearing no further business, President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 2:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Falesha Thrash

Falesha Thrash, Board Administrator and recording secretary