

**HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, February 28, 2020**

Members Present:

Gabby Abou-Zeid
Adam Argo
April Bertelsen (alternate for Art Pearce)
Dan Bower
Jan Campbell
Aaron Carleson
Mercedes Elizalde
Reza Farhoodi
Jodi Guetzloe Parker
Jarvez Hall
Eric Loomis (alternate for Dwight Brasear)
Huy Ong
Deanna Palm
Sushmita Poddar
Mary Lou Ritter
Walter Robinson II
Roy Rogers
Commissioner Paul Savas
Mariana Valenzuela
Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson
Coi Vu
Julie Wilcke
Kiley Wilson
Sara Wright

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Committee Business

Committee purpose

Advisory Committee Guiding Statement discussed.

Comm. Savas: Legislative intent was to assist with last-mile.

Committee Purpose: to assist with the update to plan for FY22-23, help determine how to spend additional money.

Reviewed:

- Committee meeting schedule (Staff has sent out calendar items of meeting schedule)
- Committee by-laws

Elect committee chair(s)

Vote on whether committee would like co-chairs, and determined consent for co-chairs and nominations for those two positions were made. Jarvez Hall and Deanna Palm were nominated and seconded. Suggestion was made that co-chairs would be rotated from county to county. Deanna Palm (again) and Dwight Bashear (not present but aware of his nomination) were also nominated.

Voting was conducted. The first position went to Deanna Palm (16 votes)
The second position went to Jarvez Hall (15 votes)

Deanna Palm: The role of a co-chairs is to move the meeting along, follow the agenda, discuss and edit the agenda prior to the meeting, and attending the meeting.

Update of Equity Areas and Rural Area Disbursements

TriMet used the Equity Index (10 factors) to determine equity needs in areas where we may wish to deploy funds. Low income was defined as 200% of the federal poverty level. A new and updated equity areas map will be available at the next meeting. The top 25% highest scoring census blocks were detailed in a map in the attached presentation.

Comm. Vega Pederson: Would be an opportunity to compare the top 15, 20 and 30% highest scoring census blocks at the next meeting.

TriMet staff: Yes.

Reza Farhoodi: Could you provide an inset map of the downtown Portland census blocks. They are too difficult to see due to their size.

TriMet Staff: Yes.

Presenter reviewed current STIF fund allocations.

These funds do not specifically pay for Medicaid transportation services.

Approximately 30,000 people are signed up for Low Income Fare and going forward this committee will determine if we should put more money towards that program to keep up.

Comm. Savas: How many of the 30,000 LIF participants in the area have access to the first/last mile services? TriMet staff will investigate.

Question from the Committee: Is outreach and education for Low Income Fare paid for with STIF funds?

TriMet Staff: We can break out how much we are spending on that.

Question from the Committee: Was the new property on Columbia Blvd. purchased with STIF funds?

TriMet staff: No, the property was not purchased with this funding. A few years into the future it will be complete.

A request was made by the committee for updated maps as to where funding is being spent.

FY22-23 Formula Funding Update

Many factors to consider for projecting available funding in FY22-23:

- STIF/STF merge
- Possible increased ODOT administrative percentage
- Growth of Low Income Fare program

Resulting funding projection for FY22-23:

- \$3 mil for one-time only funding
- \$3-5 mil for ongoing funding

This committee will have to consider how to spend the one-time only and ongoing funds for FY22-23.

Comm. Savas: Could we put this money in a reserve fund? Or possibly sprinkle it among the existing projects.

Comm. Vega Pederson: We should consider what will be in the Metro funding measure.

TriMet Staff: The STIF plan is due to ODOT on Nov. 1 – two days before the ballot measure if voted on.

Sushmitta Poddar: Can we submit two plans? One plan would have more funding for students, and the other plan would have more funding for bus shelters. If the Metro measure doesn't pass, then we'd use the plan that funds student fares. If the Metro measure passes, then we'd use the plan that funds more shelters.

TriMet Staff: We would have to check with ODOT, but it would seem highly unlikely that we could submit two separate plans.

Comm. Savas: We need more shelters on the system.

Mariana Valenzuela: People won't ride the system if there aren't shelters. We lack shelters in Washington County.

Huy Ong: We would like to see ridership data for youth.

Comm. Savas: Would like a refresher on the youth fare programs.

Comm. Rogers: \$3-5 mil doesn't even pay for a quality intersection upgrade. This is not a lot of money we're talking about.

Jarvez Hall: Are there matching funds? Is there an opportunity to get jurisdictions to match this funding?

Sushmitta Poddar: With such a small pot of money, we should work with the cities to develop microtransit pilot programs.

Commissioner Savas: We need a better level of service for the entire region. We need to understand where the need is.

Mariana Valenzuela: Needs are different throughout the region.

Coi Vu: It would be helpful to receive information about the cost of operations.

The TriMet board will consider the plan/application before anything is approved. We are aiming to have this committee finalize the plan by July. There is one specific thing we cannot use this money for, which is capital projects for light rail.

Meeting Adjourns 9:30 a.m.