

**HB 2017 Transit Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes March 15, 2019**

Members present include:

Dan Bower  
Jan Campbell  
Aron Carleson  
Jillian Detweiler  
Reza Farhoodi  
Chris Fick (alternate for Jessica Vega Pederson)  
Chris Hagerbaumer  
JoAnne Herrigal (alternate for Barbara Bernstein)  
Anneliese Koehler  
Diane McKeel  
Deanna Palm  
Kem Marks (alternate for Renata Frantum)  
Huy Ong  
Art Pearce  
Julie Wilcke Pilmer  
Paul Savas  
Andrew Singelakis  
Bob Stacey

**Public Comment**

1. Scott South, Chair, Friends of Frog Ferry – Thank you for your consideration. We have hundreds of supporters. I'm here to advocate for FFF's application for STIF Discretionary Funding. The STIF grant would pay for a Finance and Operations Plan. Portland is a river city. Of the top river cities, we're the only one without water transit. There is a lot of support for FFF. We've worked for 2 years and raised \$400,000 on the effort. We have a broad coalition of support.
2. Matt Muksteller, Daimler – Improving our 400 employees' commute is our biggest issue. Congestion is getting worse.
3. Patty Fink, Executive Director, Columbia Area Transit – We're working with our partners at the Columbia Gorge Express to take over management of the service. With a STIF Discretionary Grant, we could expand the service and have it dovetail with our commuter service. Intitu has 1,000 employees in Hood River, many of whom come from Portland & Vancouver. Trips occur in the other direction for shopping and medical trips. Part of Governor Brown's climate change strategy is to expand transit. We want to expand our service to The Dalles and Mt. Hood Meadows. 2.5 mil people took

advantage of our parks and the Gorge provides incredible opportunity. We can provide this service at a low cost, especially for low income people.

## **Discussion**

### STIF Discretionary Applications

Tom Mills (TriMet staff) – TriMet staff recommends advancing all STIF Discretionary applications without providing a preferred ranking. ODOT will develop their own rankings of the applications. Rankings are somewhat irrelevant since the overall program is undersubscribed.

Jillian Detweiler – Why is the STIF Discretionary Program undersubscribed? Why wasn't this used as an opportunity to fund a study of transportation needs of youth?

Art Pearce – Would ODOT allow for applicants to revise their applications now that we know it is undersubscribed?

Dwight Brashear – Intercommunity Funds (part of the STIF Discretionary Program) is for one-time only project. If it goes into operations, then it must be taken on by the recipient once the funding runs out. I suspect the fund is undersubscribed because entities shied away from the funding because it is one-time only. I am open to reopening the process to allow for applications for left over funding.

Anneliese Koehler – Does this committee have the ability to not advance an application to ODOT?

Tom Mills (TriMet Staff) – Yes, this committee can choose to do that.

Anneliese Koehler – I recommend that this committee review the applications.

Jillian Detweiler – TriMet failed to reach out to communities that don't have the knowledge and ability to engage in the process.

Chris Hagerbaumer – I agree with Jillian

Motion to support TriMet staff's recommendation to advance all STIF Discretionary Fund applications to ODOT without providing a preferred ranking.

Motion passed: 14 yes, 4 no.

Jillian Detweiler – Submitted a motion to express strong disappointment with TriMet staff's administration of this funding.

Motion failed: 7 yes, 9 no, 2 abstentions.

Art Pearce – Submitted a motion to ask TriMet to send a communication from this advisory committee that ODOT allow for revisions to the program to allow for further funding of applications.

Jillian Detweiler – Given TriMet’s lack of outreach to communities this may only exacerbate inequities in the applications being funded.

Jason Kelly, ODOT – After the applications are submitted, there will be no ability to amend applications.

Paul Savas – There are too many disconnects in the way the QE’s are formed. Do all these monies have to go through the QEs or should they go through the ACTs. We have transit deserts. We should ask the OTC to look at how we are structured. We are disadvantaged.

Dan Bower – All entities had access to these funds. It’s not all on TriMet.

Art Pearce – Submitted a motion that this group recommend to ODOT to allow applicants to revise their applications.

Motion failed: 3 yes, 11 no, 3 abstentions

### Student Pass Program

Tom Mills (TriMet staff) Staff recommended that funding be made to all students on free and reduced lunch programs at all high schools.

Motion submitted in favor of staff recommendation.

Motion passed: 17 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.

### Formula Program Updates

#### 1. Low Income Fare Program

Deanna Palm – This is the first time we’ve done this and we should learn from this process. Staff could reach out to the committee.

Jillian Detweiler – Is this program bringing in new riders?

John Gardner (TriMet staff) – Yes. We’re hearing that about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of riders are new.

Kem Marks – Are you tracking where people are signing up?

John Gardner (TriMet staff) – Yes. We know where the sites are where people are signing up. We'll be meeting with all of our partners to learn about what is working and what isn't.

Huy Ong – Have you asked if people have had interaction with fare inspectors?

Jillian Detweiler – Can the police inform people with suspended licenses of the Low-Income Fare Program?

Art Pearce – The DMV would be a good partner for informing people with suspended licenses of the Low-Income Fare Program.

## 2. Student Pass Program

JoAnne Herrigal – What if schools over apply?

John Gardner (TriMet staff) – It is based on the percentage of free and reduced lunch students at each school.

Jillian Detweiler – What is the point of the application? What is TriMet going to do to ensure that under-resourced schools can apply for the funding.

John Gardner (TriMet staff) – For schools that are ready, this is a great start. If a school is in an affluent community, it wouldn't be eligible for much funding in the first place.

Jillian Detweiler – I would like to see an action plan if the program is undersubscribed.

John Gardner (TriMet staff) – We'll be in a good place to report back.

Huy Ong – Please report what youth at TEAC have said.

John Gardner (TriMet staff) – We have representatives from OPAL and the Multnomah Youth Commission. They said that they want to make sure that there is oversight and that the funding is getting to the youth that need it. They have also asked that the application isn't overly burdensome.

Huy Ong – Four key recommendations

1. The school has demonstrated ridership
2. There is active monitoring of the program
3. Prioritize schools with free and reduced lunch
4. Think about the size of the school

Anneliese Koehler – Members of TEAC were excited to hear about this program and how it was being administered.

### 3. Transit Priority

April Bertelsen (PBOT staff): Transit priority projects coming soon:

- Eastbound Madison St. BAT lane from SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to SW 1<sup>st</sup> Ave – Hawthorne bridgehead.
- Eastbound Burnside BAT lane from SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. to the Burnside Bridge and then a dedicated bus lane across the bridge.
- Westbound Burnside BAT lane with bike improvements and improved pedestrian crossings.
- Eastbound Everett St. – BAT lane

PBOT is trying to create a pipeline of projects.

Dan Bower – On Mon. we started construction on the Grand Ave. BAT lane to help Streetcar and Line 6 bypass traffic going to I-84.

Kem Marks – Are you looking at busses going through center lanes?

April Bertelsen (PBOT staff) – Not yet, but we're open to discussions. There is some concern about platforms in the street.

Kem Marks – I don't like bikes going up and over.

### 4. Stop Amenities

Kem Marks – What are you doing about shelters that are removed for vandalism? Are they replaced?

### 5. Miscellaneous

Paul Savas – What are the projections for fare revenue?

Joanne Herrigal – Always have the pie chart or the pyramid.

Meeting adjourned.