

**Date:** February 24, 2021

**To:** Board of Directors

**From:** Bruce Warner, Board President



**Subject: RESOLUTION NO. 21-02-04 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) APPOINTING SAM DESUE, JR., AS INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER**

**1. Purpose of Item**

This Resolution requests that the TriMet Board of Directors (Board) appoint Sam Desue, Jr., as TriMet’s Interim General Manager.

**2. Type of Agenda Item**

- Initial Contract
- Contract Modification
- Other: Appointment of Interim General Manager

**3. Reason for Board Action**

The General Manager, appointed by the Board, is to have full charge of the administration of TriMet’s business affairs. Upon the retirement of General Manager Doug Kelsey, the Board’s appointment of an Interim General Manager will assure the continued orderly operation of the transit District.

**4. Type of Action**

- Resolution
- Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> Reading
- Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Background**

General Manager Doug Kelsey has advised the Board that he will retire on the last day of his contract on March 5, 2021. It will take several months to conduct a formal recruitment for a new General Manager. Appointment of an Interim General Manager will ensure the continuation of TriMet’s regular business operations until the Board is able to appoint a new General Manager, and Sam Desue, Jr. has the necessary qualifications and experience to fill that role.

In addition to his 10 years of military service as a UH1H (Huey) helicopter crew chief, Mr. Desue has 27 years of public and private transit experience in various positions of responsibility, from bus driving to transit agency management. Mr. Desue came to TriMet from the Kansas City Area Transit Authority (KCATA), where he served as its interim General Manager in 2014-2015, and as its Deputy Chief Executive Officer from 2017-2019. Since February 2019, Mr. Desue has served as TriMet’s Chief Operating Officer. As a result

of experience obtained by his service at TriMet and KCATA, Mr. Desue is well aware of a large transit agency's business and organizational needs, and is fully capable of ensuring the continuity of TriMet's administrative, operational and business affairs until the Board's appointment of a new General Manager.

The appointment of Sam Desue, Jr. as Interim General Manager shall be effective on March 5, 2021 and shall continue until the date that the Board appoints a replacement General Manager.

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-02-04**

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-02-04 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) APPOINTING  
SAM DESUE, JR., AS INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER**

**WHEREAS**, ORS 267.135 authorizes the TriMet Board of Directors (Board) to appoint a General Manager, whose duties are described in ORS 267.140 and include having full charge of the administration of the business affairs of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, General Manager Doug Kelsey has advised the Board that he will retire upon the expiration of his contract on March 5, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure the continuity of efficient operations and the effective management and administration of the business affairs of the transit District upon the departure of the General Manager, the Board desires to appoint an Interim General Manager to serve until it can appoint a replacement General Manager; and

**WHEREAS**, Sam Desue, Jr., has 27 years of experience in the transit industry in various positions of responsibility, including recent service as TriMet's Chief Operations Officer; is well aware of TriMet's ongoing business and organizational needs; and is fully capable of ensuring the continuity of TriMet's administrative, operational, and business affairs until the Board's appointment of a new General Manager;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. Effective on March 5, 2021, Sam Desue, Jr., is hereby appointed as TriMet's Interim General Manager, and shall serve until the Board appoints a replacement General Manager.
2. The Board President is authorized to negotiate and execute, on the Board's behalf, a contract employing Sam Desue, Jr., as Interim General Manager for a period of up to 180 days, which may be extended as needed upon agreement of the parties, and which shall be terminated upon the Board's appointment of a new General Manager.
3. The Board President is further directed to work with the Board and General Manager Kelsey to review Mr. Kelsey's draft FY 2021 performance expectations in order to identify and prioritize the key items that the Board wishes the Interim General Manager to prioritize upon his initial engagement.

Dated: February 24, 2021

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Presiding Officer

Attest:

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Recording Secretary

Approved as to Legal Sufficiency:

***Gregory E. Skillman***  
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Legal Department