

HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 26, 2024

Location: Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Attendees

- TriMet District Representatives
 - Sushmita Poddar (District 1) - Not present, third term on the committee, returning member
 - Phil Selinger (District 2) - Not present, new member to the committee
 - Andrew Aebi (District 3) - Present, former TriMet employee, currently employed at the city of Portland, representing District 3
 - Adam Argo (District 4) - Present, transportation and land use planner, long ago TriMet employee, represents District 4
 - Clint Culpepper (District 5) - Not present, alternate for Reza Farhoodi who moved out of District 5
 - Jarvez Hall (District 6) - Present, Director of the East Metro STEM Partnership, representing school districts east of Portland Public Schools
 - Michael Morrow (District 7) - Present, resides in Happy Valley, served on various city, county, and regional committees, co-chair with Jarvez Hall
- Elected Officials
 - Duncan Hwang (Metro Counselor) - Not present, but Ally Holmqvist, his alternate, was present
 - Roy Rogers (Washington County Commissioner) - Present
 - Paul Savas (Clackamas County Commissioner) - Present, representing Clackamas County
 - Julia Brim Edwards (Multnomah County Commissioner) - Not present, Margi Bradway, her alternate, present
- Other Representatives
 - April Bertelsen (Portland Bureau of Transportation) - Present
 - Brandon Brezic (Central City Concern) - Representing low-income individuals
 - Mary Lou Ritter - Representing individuals age 65 and older

- Jan Campbell - Representing people with disabilities, chair of the committee on accessible transportation
- Claudia Robertson - Vice chair of the committee on accessible transportation, alternate for Jan Campbell
- Dan Bower (Portland Streetcar) - Present, Director of Portland Streetcar Inc.
- Julie Wilcke Pilmer (Ride Connection) - Present, CEO at Ride Connection
- Dyami Valentine (Washington County's Department of land use and transportation) - Present, representing areas outside the TriMet district but within the 3 counties
- Mariana Valenzuela (Centro Cultural) - Present, Director of Community Partnerships at Centro Cultural, also a city counselor for the city of Forest Grove
- Shante Hinshaw (Constructing Hope) - Present, case manager at Constructing Hope, on the phone due to technical difficulties
- Sarah Ianarone (The Street Trust) - Not present, Lindsey Huber, her alternate, was present
- John Isaacs (Portland Metro Chamber) - Not confirmed during introductions
- Deanna Palm (Washington County Chamber of Commerce) - Present, returning member and a past co-chair of this committee
- Marshall McGrady (IBEW Local 48) - Present, political director for IBEW Local 48, representing union electricians

WebEx Tutorial

- A brief tutorial on WebEx functionalities was provided, emphasizing the importance of understanding mute/unmute, video, and hand-raising features for effective communication during virtual meetings. Tom also reminded attendees about the recording of chats, including private ones.

Meeting Agenda Overview

- Tom outlined the meeting agenda, starting with public comment, followed by committee introductions, a discussion on the STIF process, and an update on the equity map. The meeting was scheduled to conclude by 11:30 AM.

Public Comment

- No public comments were made, likely due to a last-minute change in the meeting link. The original link could not be accessed.

Committee Introductions

Tom proposed a structured approach for introductions, categorizing the participants into distinct groups for clarity and coherence. The introductions proceeded as follows:

- **TriMet District Representatives** A mix of new and returning members from various districts shared their backgrounds and roles. Not all representatives were present, but those who were provided insights into their connection with TriMet and their communities.
- **Elected Officials:** Representatives from the Metro Council, Washington County, Clackamas County, and Multnomah County (or their alternates) introduced themselves, highlighting their roles and expressing their commitment to the committee's objectives. Some faced technical difficulties, underscoring the challenges of virtual meetings.
- **Other Representatives:** Members representing diverse perspectives, including low-income individuals, seniors, people with disabilities, and various stakeholders from the transit, education, and labor sectors, introduced themselves. They shared their affiliations, experiences, and aspirations for their tenure on the committee.

STIF Process Overview

Tom provided a comprehensive overview of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) process, its significance under House Bill 2017 (HB2017), and the role of the Transit Advisory Committee in advising on the STIF plan for the biennium. The key points discussed were as follows:

- **HB2017 and STIF Introduction:** Tom explained that HB2017, known as the Keep Oregon Moving Act, introduced a new payroll tax to fund transportation improvements, including the STIF. He clarified the interchangeable use of HB2017 and STIF in discussions, emphasizing the focus on this specific program within the broader legislation.
- **Funding Allocation:** The presentation outlined how the STIF funds are allocated, including a breakdown by year and projections for future funding. Tom highlighted the importance of directing these funds toward expanding bus routes, increasing service frequency in low-income areas, transitioning to zero-emission buses, and improving connections within and beyond the TriMet district.
- **Committee's Role:** The committee's advisory role was detailed, with Tom noting the balance sought between legislative priorities, TriMet's objectives, and the committee's recommendations. He stressed that while the committee's insights are valued, the TriMet Board of Directors has the final say on the STIF plan.
- **Approval Process:** Tom outlined the process from plan proposal development by TriMet, advisement by the committee, approval by the TriMet Board, and final approval by the Oregon Transportation Commission. He underscored the collaborative effort involved in plan development and approval.

- **Equity Focus:** The discussion included the importance of using an equity lens in the STIF plan, with Tom introducing the updated equity map and its role in guiding resource allocation and planning efforts. He mentioned the process for identifying ; areas and the criteria used, signaling a commitment to addressing transportation needs in underserved communities.

STIF Equity Map Update

Tom introduced the updated STIF Equity Map, explaining its purpose, methodology, and impact on the allocation of transportation resources. Following the presentation, a detailed discussion ensued among committee members, focusing on refining the map to better serve community needs.

- **Introduction to the Equity Map:** Tom shared the updated equity map, detailing the criteria used to identify equity areas, including income levels, demographics, and accessibility needs. The map's role in guiding STIF fund allocation towards underserved communities was emphasized.
- **Methodological Overview:** The methodology for determining equity areas was outlined, including the scoring system based on ten factors such as low income, people of color, and access to essential services. Tom highlighted the map's evolution and its significance in ensuring equitable transit planning.
- **Adjustments and Ground Truthing:** Acknowledging the need for accuracy, Tom mentioned plans to ground truth the map, particularly in rural areas outside the TriMet district, to ensure it reflects actual community conditions and needs.

Discussion

- **Granularity and Data Accuracy:** Committee members, including Andrew Aebi, expressed concerns about the map's granularity, especially in rapidly changing areas. The need for more current data to capture recent developments in affordable housing and demographic shifts was discussed.
- **Inclusion of Additional Transit Systems:** April Bertelsen suggested incorporating other transit systems, like Portland Streetcar and regional shuttles, into the map for a comprehensive view of transit accessibility across the equity areas.
- **Reflecting New Developments:** Brandon Brezic highlighted the importance of including new affordable housing projects and potential expansions in the equity map to accurately represent emerging equity areas.
- **Disability and Age Considerations:** Mary Lou Ritter raised the question of how seniors and people with disabilities are represented in the equity map, suggesting more detailed data to ensure these populations' needs are adequately addressed.

- Collaborative Adjustments: Dyami Valentine and others underscored the value of collaborating with counties and other stakeholders to refine the equity map, ensuring it aligns with local insights and ground-truthed information.
- Future Engagements and Revisions: The discussion concluded with an agreement on the importance of ongoing dialogue and updates to the equity map as community needs evolve. Members emphasized the need for transparency and community engagement in refining the map.
- Commissioner Savas emphasized the necessity for regional coordination and understanding the legislative intent behind HB2017, advocating for a STIF planning process that transcends TriMet district boundaries. He stressed the importance of reflecting commuter flows and legislative intent by ensuring equitable planning and representation for both areas inside and outside the TriMet district, addressing the comprehensive transit needs across the region.
- Highlighting the importance of collaborative engagement and ground-truthing with counties, cities, and other stakeholders, Savas called for adjustments to the STIF Equity Map to more accurately reflect community conditions and transit needs. This collaborative approach aims to align with the legislative intent of serving underserved communities and ensuring the equitable allocation of STIF funds based on comprehensive regional insights and needs.

Tom responded to the feedback, affirming TriMet's commitment to incorporating the committee's suggestions and working closely with stakeholders to enhance the equity map's accuracy and relevance.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned by Michael Morrow, with thanks to all participants for their contributions and discussions.

Next Steps:

- TriMet staff to work on adjusting the equity map based on feedback and ground truthing.
- Committee members to review proposed changes to the equity map at a future meeting for approval.
- Continuation of discussions on the STIF process and plan development in subsequent meetings.

Note: For further information or follow-up, committee members and stakeholders are encouraged to contact Tom Mills or Jarvez Hall.