



Transit Equity Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

TEAC, Agency Update - John Gardner

- Operators Hiring – Asking all partners to share the information via networks
- FX2 Update- Standard 40-foot buses to temporarily serve FX2-Division stations out of an abundance of caution due to a fleet-wide mechanical issue. We are working with the manufacturer, Nova Bus, to address the issue and return the articulated buses to service as soon as possible.
- Long-term exclusions: Update- Ordinance 369 that was presented for the first time at Wednesday's Board meeting. Based on some of the initial rider reactions, reported by KPTV, people are enthusiastic to see efforts directed at rider accountability, and they are already seeing improvements on the system, including more presence. Second reading will be at the December Board Meeting.
- Forward Together Open Houses - Nearly 4,600 responses collected over four weeks of outreach and engagement to help shape the Forward Together plan. TriMet and Jarrett Walker + Associates will review the feedback received with our Forward Together, and put together a plan based on what we heard.

Subsidize Fare Resource Workgroup – John Gardner

TEAC is launching a Fare Subsidy workgroup on January 2023. Members will be recruited for this workgroup at the same time as membership for TEAC is renewed and expanded.

Goal: To explore opportunities to improve TriMet's Fare support strategies for vulnerable riders and communities.

3 Initial Areas of Focus

- **Research** – understanding of where are the resources across the region by researching
 - External Fare Subsidy Resources
 - Fare Mitigation Models
 - Current Fare-less Systems & Approaches & Cost Models
 - Current Initiatives
- **Current Initiatives** - Review and revitalize current programs at TriMet to increase awareness and utilization of these programs
 - Access Transit
 - Fare Assistance
 - Fare Relief
 - Honored Citizen Program
 - Summer Pass Program
 - Fare Capping
- **New Programs & Approaches**- Explore implementation of new fare products and how these could be paid for
 - Exploring New Models
 - Revisit program ideas like a “Family Pass”



- Articulating Recommended changes to existing programs
- Integrating research findings & new strategies

The initial timeline has the workgroup kicking off in January and creating a work plan in February to build out the Research RFP before the end of February with the goal of launching the RFP in February or March. The workgroup will report out to TEAC monthly.

Members expressed excitement for this topic.

High Capacity Transit Projects Framework – Ally Holmquist

Metro staff provided an overview of Metro and TriMet's regional partnership on strategies for growing the High Capacity Transit network to get people where they need to go more quickly, conveniently, comfortably, and reliably.

Members had question on definition of high capacity, amenities and funding and how corridors are been looked at when planning for High Capacity Transit such as population growth. Suggested tailoring language currently in use to define High Capacity Transit to highlight local needs and making the connection with the local communities.

Board Retreat Overview – Kathy Wai

Director Wai noted the conversation of the last Board meeting and the information the Board received which led to the conversation around a potential fare increase. More information is coming around the discussion of fare and how this would impact riders at the upcoming board retreat. At the retreat the Board will look at more information and will hold a straw vote to give staff direction on where the Board would like the fare conversation to go.

The timeline for the potential increase includes outreach, a Title VI analysis followed by the process of holding a first reading, second reading and a final vote. The public is able to follow the discussion virtually or in person, although there will be no opportunity for public comment.

TEAC members highlighted their lack of support for a fare increase and noted they will be drafting a letter to the Board to express their lack of support for a fare increase.

- Members suggested looking at all the funding streams that are currently in use and any additional ones that may not have been looked at, before moving forward with an increase on fares. Members also suggested having a budget presentation to the Committee to give members an overview of what is been considered in the budget to pay for services.

TEAC Update & Renewal 2023

Staff presented on the timeline for new TEAC member recruitment. With the initial kickoff happening in Mid-November. TEAC is looking to expand in the coming year and increase membership to bring in new partners representatives of all seven-board districts. The application will be available through December 30th. All current members are also been asked to fill out an application.



The draft charter review is finalized from TEAC's end, next steps includes the review of the GM who could also recommend changes before finalizing the document to be shared in January when all current and new incoming members will go through the onboarding process and orientation.