

Transit Equity Advisory Committee (TEAC)

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Attendees: Karol Orozco, Amparo Agosto, John Gardner, Hao Nguyen, Trieste Palmer (online), John Gardner, Jon Coney, Nicole Erickson (online), Ana Munoz (online), John MacArthur (online), Sara Ford (online), Eileen Collins (online), April Bertelsen, Tristan Isac, Jane Campbell, Tia York (online), Annadiana Johnson (online), Pastor Wisner (online), Kathy Wai (online), Justin Rossman (online)

1. Agency Updates TEAC and TriMet updates and announcements

- TriMet works to combat drug use on board as health experts determine no public health risk from drug residue detected in transit. Link: <https://news.trimet.org/2023/09/trimet-works-to-combat-drug-use-on-board-as-health-experts-determine-no-public-health-risk-from-drug-residue-detected-on-transit/>
- Monitoring recent incidents, like a weekend stabbing
- Improved elevator access at Hollywood Transit Center for ADA users on August 28th
- Replacing Type 1 trains with Type 6 trains for enhanced ADA accessibility
- Introducing two new lift buses with an incredible design done by artists from North Pole PDX.
- Summer Pass Program concluded on August 31st
- Grants are available for non-profits serving ADA, seniors, and people with disabilities. Link: <https://trimet.org/accesstransit/>
- Actively hiring service workers with bonuses to boost ridership and ensure safety- Link: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/trimet>

2. Youth Summer Passes Second-Year Program Recap by John Coney

- Distributed over 30,000 summer passes. Those passes were distributed to 18 school districts, including PPS, community colleges, and private schools

- "Endless Summer" promotion theme received excellent reviews in high schools
- Passes come in new plastic holders and are valid from June 1st to August 31st
- PPS had the highest usage, with over 10,000 bus pass users
- East Multnomah County and Washington County had 2,500 and 810 users, respectively
- Community colleges (PCC, CCC, Mt. Hood) had 2,400 users
- Private high schools had 1,500 users
- Community-based organizations had 3,700 users
- Summer Scholars program provided 600 passes, saving students thousands of dollars
- Information and brochures were produced in Spanish and English, but not all students knew the program.
- Efforts to improve communication with schools and students, including digital posters and outreach to incoming 8th graders
- TriMet cannot directly promote the program; the responsibility lies with the schools.
- Feedback on past designs and sleeves considered for future improvements
- Some schools distributed passes in-house, with Amparo's team assisting in educating about the program

3. Fare Subsidy Workgroup August Meeting Recap by Subcommittee Members

- TEAC members receive RFP info via email, and if they want to participate, they need to register for contract list access. Link: <https://trimet.org/procurement/>
- PSU, UW, and all research members involved; TriMet increasing research resources. Research to address subsidies, reducing fare costs, and operating expenses
- Responses limited to 20 pages; not from partnering organizations or affiliates

- The previous meeting discussed initiatives for affordable transportation in the Portland Metro area. Initiatives include the Fare Relief Program, Reduced Fares Program, and Fares Assistance

4. Summer Outreach Community Engagement Efforts by Amparo Agosto

- Amparo's team comprises five members representing different user groups in transportation.
- Primary focus: Building community relationships, safety, and equity in services.
- Serve as liaisons to gather project feedback and maintain a strong community presence.
- Recently expanded team with Hao to connect with the Vietnamese community.
- Organized/participated in 40+ events since June 1st to engage riders and provide critical information.
- Emphasis on informing the community about fare increases and Hop card benefits.
- Offer guidance to individuals facing issues and engage in sponsorships/events on various topics.
- Focus on Clackamas County, where TriMet's presence is limited.
- Offer culturally specific materials in different languages.
- Commitment to being a valuable resource for the community and promoting equitable transportation access.

5. Members Check-in

- Commonly asked questions about transportation include accessibility, routes to events, and service gaps.
- Valuable content to answer these questions, such as updated flyers, improved website navigation, and in-person meetings.