

CHAPTER 29 – REGULATIONS GOVERNING PROOF OF FARE PAYMENT

29.01 **Authority:**

- A. ORS 267.200 provides that TriMet, as a mass transit district, constitutes “a municipal corporation of this state, and a public body, corporate and politic, exercising public power.”
- B. ORS 267.150(1) provides that the “legislative authority of a district board shall be exercised by ordinance.”
- C. ORS 267.150(2) provides that TriMet’s Board may “enact police ordinances relating to the protection, use and enjoyment of district property and facilities.”
- D. ORS 267.200 provides that TriMet has the “full power to carry out the objects of its formation.”
- E. ORS 267.200(6) provides that TriMet may “fix and collect charges for the use of the transit system and other district facilities.”
- F. ORS 267.140(2) provides that the General Manager shall have “full charge of the administration of the business affairs of the district.”
- G. ORS 267.140(3) provides that the General Manager shall enforce “all ordinances adopted by the board.”

(29.01 established by Ordinance No. 351)

29.05 **Findings.** The Board of Directors finds as follows:

- A. That TriMet’s ability to collect fares is essential to TriMet’s budget and its ability to provide mass transportation services to the region;
- B. That TriMet’s MAX light rail system has always had a self-service, barrier-free fare collection system, as do most light rail transit systems in North America;
- C. That MAX light rail station and platform characteristics on the TriMet system originally and as currently designed make self-service, barrier-free fare collection the optimal policy;
- D. That a system of self-service fare payment will create substantial cost savings to the residents and taxpayers of TriMet and to the users of its transportation facilities;
- E. That moving from a self-service, barrier free system to a fully gated system with turnstiles would be prohibitively expensive and would fundamentally alter the open nature of the light rail system and its role in the environment where TriMet operates. In

addition to cost, barriers would not eliminate the need for fare inspections based on the experience of closed transit systems that continue to be challenged by non-compliance with fare requirements in the form of fare gate jumping;

- F. That a self-service, barrier free system will contribute to a more efficient and more convenient transportation service, both for drivers and for passengers;
- G. That a self-service, barrier-free fare system necessarily relies on the inspection of fares by asking passengers and prospective passengers to show valid proof of payment upon request;
- H. That to establish a viable self-service, barrier-free system it is necessary to adopt a system to monitor fares that is fair and equitable;
- I. That to ensure nondiscrimination on any basis, any system to check fares in a self-service barrier-free system may not target any person or groups of people;
- J. That a program of checking fares in a safe and systematic manner that is directed at all customers on a given train or platform to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with safety considerations under the circumstances ensures that there is no perceived or actual bias in the process of checking fares;
- K. That TriMet has several programs that offer free and reduced fares for qualified individuals;
- L. That TriMet, through Ordinance 349 enacted reduced penalties in 2018 that provided an opportunity to resolve a fare evasion citation outside of the court system directly with TriMet for 90-days following issuance of the citation by paying a fine, performing community service, enrolling in the Honored Citizen program, or seeking administrative review of the citation;
- M. That those cited only for fare evasion are eligible for a voluntary administrative resolution of a citation that allows the cited party to avoid the court process entirely;
- N. TriMet supports personnel involved in providing a safe and secure system and, in the development of any policies and procedures pursuant to this ordinance, consideration should be made to safety and de-escalation to reduce conflict on the system;
- O. That the policy for inspecting fares in Chapter 29 of the TriMet Code is designed to establish uniform, non-criminal, non-discriminatory procedure to govern fare inspections and fare evasion and to effectuate the intent of these findings.

(29.05 amended by Ordinance No. 351)

29.10 **Definitions.** A used in this Chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

- A. “Commuter Rail Platform”, as used in this Chapter, means an area used exclusively for boarding and deboarding, or waiting for, a commuter rail train, including adjoining stairways, ramps and elevators.
- B. Enforcement Officer means any person authorized to demand proof of fare payment and to issue citations as provided in this Chapter by (1) the General Manager; (2) ORS Chapter 153; or (3) by the provisions of TMC Chapters 28, 29 or 30
- C. “Light Rail Platform”, as used in this Chapter, means an area used exclusively for boarding and deboarding, or waiting for, a light rail train, including adjoining stairways, ramps and elevators.
- D. “Proof of Fare Payment” means:
- (1) A TriMet pass or a C-Tran (Clark County Public Transportation Authority) pass valid for the status of the person and the time of use;
 - (2) A receipt showing or evidencing payment of the applicable fare, valid for the status of the person, used within the time applicable to the receipt;
 - (3) A prepaid ticket or series of tickets showing validation by TriMet time stamp, valid for the status of the person, used within the time applicable to the ticket;
 - (4) A TriMet issued validation sticker affixed to a photo identification card that is issued by TriMet, an employer or college and is valid for the period designated on the sticker, and used by the person whose name and photo appear on the identification card;
 - (5) A valid eFare Payment Instrument; or
 - (6) Any other fare instrument and any fare identification or documentation required by TMC Chapter 19 or by experimental fare ordinance.
- E. “To Exhibit Proof of Fare Payment” for an eFare Payment Instrument means:
- (1) To present a valid eFare Payment Instrument and to permit scanning of the person’s eFare Payment Instrument by an authorized Enforcement Officer, to demonstrate the eFare Payment’s validity; or
 - (2) To show any other fare instrument and any fare identification or documentation required by TMC Chapter 19 or by experimental fare ordinance for use of the eFare Payment Instrument.
- F. “Valid eFare Payment Instrument” means an eFare card or ticket, or any contactless financial instrument authorized by TMC Chapter 19 for payment of electronic fare that has been:

- (1) Tapped and accepted at an eFare card reader; or
- (2) Validated by a TriMet ticket vending machine or other TriMet validation equipment;

prior to each vehicle boarding or upon occupying any district area requiring proof of fare payment.

(29.10 amended by Ordinance No. 179, Section 2; Ordinance No. 239, Section 1; Ordinance Nos. 266, 297, 303, 323, 330, 342 and 364)

29.15 **Prohibitions.**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy, ride in or use, any District Vehicle without paying the applicable fare.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy, ride in or use, any District Vehicle without carrying proof of fare payment.
- C. It shall be unlawful for any person occupying a District Vehicle, or occupying a light rail platform upon disembarking a light rail vehicle, or occupying a commuter rail platform upon disembarking a commuter rail vehicle, to fail to carry or to fail to exhibit proof of fare payment upon demand of an Enforcement Officer as authorized by TMC 29.40.
- D. It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to provide the person's name, address or identification to an Enforcement Officer, as required by TMC 29.20.
- E. It shall be unlawful for any person, required by TMC 29.20 to provide the person's name, address or identification to provide a false name, address or identification.
- F. It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy without carrying proof of fare payment, the 42nd Avenue (Hollywood), 60th Avenue, 82nd Avenue, Parkrose/Sumner or Sunset Transit Center light rail station platforms, or the Washington Park Station light rail platforms and elevators, or any light rail or commuter rail platform where signage is posted requiring the carrying of proof of fare payment.
- G. It shall be unlawful for any person occupying the 42nd Avenue (Hollywood), 60th Avenue, 82nd Avenue, Parkrose/Sumner or Sunset Transit Center light rail station platforms, or the Washington Park Station light rail platforms and elevators, or any light rail or commuter rail platform where signage is posted requiring the carrying of proof of fare payment, to fail to exhibit proof of fare payment upon demand of an Enforcement Officer as authorized by TMC 29.40.

(29.15 amended by Ordinance No. 179, Section 2; Ordinance No. 216, Section 1; Ordinance No. 228, Section 1; Ordinance No. 266; Ordinance No. 278; Ordinance No. 291; Ordinance No. 303 and Ordinance No. 364)

29.20 **Identification.** A person failing to exhibit Proof of Payment upon demand by an authorized Enforcement Officer shall provide the Enforcement Officer, the person's name and residence address and shall exhibit upon request of the Enforcement Officer whatever written identification, if any, may be carried by the person. Pursuant to ORS 153.039, an Enforcement Officer may stop and detain persons for the purpose of issuing a citation.

(29.20 amended by Ordinance No. 266 and Ordinance No. 364)

29.25 **Administration.** The General Manager may adopt such procedures as may be necessary from time to time for the administration of this Chapter.

29.30 **Administrative Request for Proof of Payment**

A. Any person authorized by TMC 29.40 may request proof of payment as provided by Chapter 29 of the TriMet Code and the rules, policies, and procedures issued by the General Manager or the General Manager's authorized designee. All rules, policies, and procedures developed by the General Manager or the General Manager's designee shall be:

- (1) Reasonable in relation to the purposes of ensuring compliance with the requirements of Chapter 29 of the TriMet Code; and
- (2) Designed and administered to systematically control the discretion of anyone requesting proof of payment.

B. Any request for proof of payment made pursuant to the authority in TriMet Code Chapter 29 must comply with all parts of Chapter 29.

C. Following a request for proof of payment as authorized by the TriMet Code, if a person's sole offense is failing to show proof of payment in violation of TMC 29.15 A-C or 29.15 F-G, the only penalty issued shall be a warning, a citation pursuant to TMC 29.35 or an exclusion. Nothing in this section prohibits removal from the premises as provided by TMC 29.40 C. Nothing in this section prohibits conducting any authorized activities reasonably related to the investigation of the violation.

D. Nothing herein is intended to compromise or waive the right to enforce concurrently, or in the alternative, other remedies under the TriMet Code or available pursuant to the Oregon Criminal Code, including those applicable to the crime of Theft of Service or Trespass when a person has committed any violation other than or in addition to TMC 29.15A-C or TMC 29.15 F-G.

(29.30 amended by Ordinance No. 351 and Ordinance No. 364)

29.35 **Penalties.**

- A. Any person who violates any provision of TMC Section 29.15 commits a violation as defined in ORS 153.005 and 153.008 punishable by a fine of not more than \$250. The presumptive fine amount for a violation of TMC Section 29.15 is \$175.
- B. Pursuant to ORS 267.153, for every citation issued to a person age 18 or over on or after July 1, 2018, where the sole violation of the TriMet Code is a violation of any of the fare payment requirements in TMC Section 29.15 A-C; or 29.15 F-G, the violation proceeding shall be stayed for a period of 90-days. During the 90-day stay period, the complaint, abstract of court record, or any other materials associated with the citation will not be filed with any court. Except as otherwise provided, for a citation subject to a 90-day stay, any resolution of the violation citation will take place directly with TriMet through the administrative process described in this section.
- C. For the duration of the 90-day stay period, the presumptive fine described in TMC 29.35 A shall be temporarily reduced to the following amounts:
1. First offense: \$75
 2. Second offense: \$100
 3. Third offense: \$150
 4. Fourth offense and beyond: \$175
- D. In lieu of payment of a fine, for the duration of the 90-day stay period the cited person shall be allowed to complete community service with an approved community service program in the following amounts:
1. First offense: 4 hours
 2. Second offense: 7 hours
 3. Third offense: 12 hours
 4. Fourth offense and beyond: 15 hours
- Satisfaction of the community service option will require a cited party to provide evidence to TriMet of successful completion of the required community service hours at an approved community organization as described in rules issued by the General Manager.
- E. A prior offense is determined by an examination of TriMet's records when the citation is issued. If the person issuing the citation is unable to complete a check of TriMet's records, the offense will be considered a first offense for purposes of the penalties in this section only.
- F. Any person cited for fare evasion subject to a stay shall have the citation reduced to \$0 upon verification of the following information in the manner required by TriMet:

- (1) The person is eligible for but not enrolled in TriMet's Low Income Fare or Honored Citizen program;
 - (2) The person successfully enrolls in the Low Income Fare or Honored Citizen program during the 90-day stay period; and
 - (3) The person loads a minimum of \$10 per citation on their reloadable fare card during the 90-day stay period.
- G. The General Manager may adopt Administrative Rules to provide for in-person or written hearings for any citation subject to a 90-day stay. The rules shall establish the type of violations on which review may be considered. The General Manager is further authorized to appoint a Hearings Officer(s), establish hearing procedures, and establish any other requirements necessary to effectively implement this subsection. Any administrative hearing conducted under this subsection must be completed within 60 days of the issuance of the citation.
- H. A citation subject to a stay is successfully resolved through the administrative process if:
- (1) The person pays the required fine in the manner prescribed by TriMet within the stay period;
 - (2) The person fully performs community service in lieu of paying a fine, according to standards established by TriMet, within the stay period; or
 - (3) TriMet, within the stay period, determines that the person did not commit the violation for which the person was cited or otherwise determines that no penalty should be assessed.

If a citation subject to a 90-day stay is successfully resolved through the administrative process during the 90-day stay as described, TriMet shall not file the complaint or abstract of court record with any court or otherwise initiate court proceedings relating to the citation.

- I. Upon the expiration of the 90-day stay for any citation not successfully resolved as provided in this section, TriMet will file with the appropriate court the complaint, abstract of record, and any other relevant documents for adjudication as provided in TMC 29.35A and applicable law.
- J. A person whose citation is subject to a 90-day stay may, at any time during the stay period, request that the citation be filed with the appropriate court. The request may be made before, during, or after an administrative process conducted under the authority of this section. Upon such request, TriMet shall cease the administrative process with respect to the citation and shall file the complaint and abstract of court record with the appropriate court pursuant to ORS 153.054.
- K. Once a citation is filed with the court for any reason the citation shall not be eligible for any of the administrative options for resolution described in this section.

- L. Pursuant to ORS 267.153(8), for any citation subject to a stay under this section, the running of any applicable statutory time limitation for the commencement of a trial is tolled during the stay period.

(29.35 amended by Ordinance No. 266; Ordinance No. 275; Ordinance No. 303; Ordinance No. 310; Ordinance No. 337; and Ordinance 349)

29.40 **Enforcement.**

- A. All Enforcement Officers are authorized to issue citations, as provided by Oregon law, to any person who violates any provision of TMC Chapter 29.

Enforcement Officers appointed by the General Manager are not police officers as defined by ORS Chapter 237 or peace officers as defined by ORS 133.005, and only have the powers to arrest afforded a private person under ORS 133.225.

- B. Citation forms as authorized pursuant to ORS Chapter 153 may be used for any violation of TMC 29.15.
- C. Any Enforcement Officer, vehicle operator, or District Rail Controller, has the authority to refuse entrance on a District Vehicle or District Station or to require departure from a District Vehicle or District Station of any person who violates any provision of TMC 29.15.
- D. Except as provided, only Enforcement Officers who are not peace officers defined by ORS 133.005 are authorized to request that any person exhibit Proof of Fare Payment as defined by TMC 29.10 D. Nothing in this Section prohibits a peace officer as defined by ORS 133.005 from engaging in any other activities including but not limited to:
 - (1) Being physically present when an Enforcement Officer who is not a peace officer under ORS 133.005 or any other authorized TriMet representative requests that a person exhibit Proof of Payment.
 - (2) Assisting in identifying a person or conducting any activities reasonable related to an investigation, once an Enforcement Officer who is not a peace officer as defined by ORS 133.005 has reasonable suspicion that the person has violated TMC Section 29.15 A-C; or 29.15 F-G.
 - (3) Investigating whether a person is presently excluded from accessing the property or vehicles of the district as provided in TMC Chapter 28.
 - (4) Responding to a request for assistance from any person or intervening in any situation where there is a safety of security risk.
 - (5) Investigating or enforcing the violation of any law or ordinance that does not require a peace officer to ask for proof of payment.

E. Subsection D prohibiting peace officers from requesting that any person exhibit Proof of Payment does not apply if the General Manager determines that a specific need is present to ensure the security of the TriMet system and authorizes in writing peace officers as defined by ORS 133.005 to ask persons to exhibit Proof of Payment to determine compliance with TMC 29.15 A-C or 29.15 F-G. The determination by the General Manager is effective upon issuance, and following the determination, the General Manager shall:

- (1) Notify the TriMet Board of Directors as soon as practicable; and
- (2) At the first regular Board of Directors meeting following the determination, provide a report to the Board that describes (1) the reason that peace officers will be conducting fare inspections; and (2) the anticipated duration of time that peace officers will be conducting fare inspections. Some or all of this report may be conducted in an Executive Session if authorized by ORS 192.660.

(29.40 amended by Ordinance No. 179, Section 2; Ordinance No. 182, Section 2; Ordinance No. 208, Section 1; Ordinance No. 266; and Ordinance No. 364)