

**Date:** March 25, 2020

**To:** Board of Directors

**From:** Doug Kelsey

**Subject:** **ORDINANCE NO. 359 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) ADOPTING SERVICE CHANGES AND REVISING ROUTE DESIGNATIONS (FIRST READING AND PUBLIC HEARING)**

**1. Purpose of Item**

Ordinance No. 359 requests that the TriMet Board of Directors (Board) adopt service changes and amend TriMet Code Chapter 22, Section 22.05 to revise route designations.

**2. Type of Agenda Item**

- Initial Contract
- Contract Modification
- Other: Ordinance

**3. Reason for Board Action**

The Board may adopt service changes and amend the TriMet Code to revise route designations only by ordinance, which requires a first reading and public hearing, and a second reading.

**4. Type of Action**

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

**5. Background**

Ordinance No. 359 will make service changes and revise route designations set forth in TriMet Code Chapter 22, Section 22.05. Most of the proposed service changes arise from the District's Service Enhancement Plan (SEP) process, which addresses TriMet's 20-year vision for bus service improvements within the District, and considers public input received before and after the proposed changes were publicized. Revenue to support these service improvements will be provided by the HB 2017 Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund.

**A. Proposed Service Changes:**

Ordinance No. 359 includes bus service changes for TriMet's Fiscal Year 2021 (which begins on July 1, 2020). Beginning in this fiscal year, two Frequent Service bus lines operating on Portland's Rose Lanes will receive 12-minute or better weekday service, two bus lines will receive increased frequency of weekday peak service, and one bus line will receive extended evening service.

In addition, one bus line will have a route change, which will require a new route designation. A new bus line will replace service in the area formerly served by the changed route.

Finally, one service change which was initiated in December of 2019 as an experimental change, will be included as regular service upon the anticipated May 2020 effective date of this Ordinance. All service changes described in Ordinance No. 359, other than the experimental service change, will begin in September 2020 and March 2021.

The proposed service changes and their operative dates are generally described below:

Operative Date	Line	Service Change
May 2020	16 Front Ave. / St. Helens Rd.	<p>Add Sunday service to provide 7-day/week service to the River District Navigation Center for people without homes. Sunday service will match Saturday service.</p> <p><b>Note: Experimental service began in December 2019.</b></p>
September 2020	6 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.	Upgrade weekday frequency to every 12 minutes or better on the weekdays. Line 6-Martin Luther King, Jr. will use Portland's bus priority Rose Lanes, which are expected to significantly increase speed and reliability for Line 6. This upgrade honors TriMet's commitment to increase service on lines with Rose Lane treatments.
	16 Front Ave. / St. Helens Rd.	Upgrade weekday frequency to approximately every 20 min. to improve morning and afternoon commute times between downtown Portland.
	87 Airport Way / 181 <sup>st</sup> Ave.	Operate until approximately 9 p.m. at night to meet shift times along Airport Way and improve service for Gresham's Rockwood neighborhood.
	155 Sunnyside	Upgrade weekday frequency to approximately every 20 min. to improve morning and afternoon commute times between Happy Valley and Clackamas Town Center and MAX Green Line.

<b>March 2021</b>	12 Barbur/Sandy	Upgrade weekday frequency to every 12 minutes or better on the weekdays. Line 12-Barbur/Sandy will use Portland's bus priority Rose Lanes, which are expected to significantly increase speed and reliability for Line 12. This upgrade honors TriMet's commitment to increase service on lines with Rose Lane treatments.
	47 Main / Evergreen	Change route to serve Cornelius Pass Rd. and South Hillsboro instead of Main St. and downtown Hillsboro. Main St. to be served by a new bus line. Change route designations to: Line 47-Century/174 <sup>th</sup> to PCC Rock Creek, and Line 47-Century/174 <sup>th</sup> to South Hillsboro.
	49 Main / Baseline	New bus line between downtown Hillsboro and Willow Creek TC via Main and Baseline. This line will replace service on Main St. after the Line 47 route change. The route designation will be: Line 49-Main/Baseline to Hillsboro TC, and Line 49-Main/Baseline to Willow Creek TC.

The complete list of service changes that will take effect as the result of the Board's adoption of this Ordinance 359 are set forth in the attached Exhibit A.

**B. Service Change Public Process**

The proposed service changes are the result of numerous conversations and meetings with jurisdictions, businesses, customers, and community stakeholders. In addition to outreach activities conducted by TriMet service planners, advertisements regarding the proposed service changes were placed in newspapers across the district during two phases of outreach during October 2019 and February 2020.

In October 2019, TriMet launched the initial outreach for the proposed service changes. TriMet sent postcards to residents living near the lines proposed to change, posted signs at affected bus stops, published ads in community newspapers, rode buses to hand out information and survey customers, posted updates to multiple social media accounts, and sent emails to interested parties and riders. TriMet's website solicited feedback about the proposed service changes (<https://trimet.org/betterbus/serviceimprovements-fy21.htm>).

TriMet also held four open house meetings around the metro area. TriMet contracted with the Centro Cultural and JLA Public Involvement to design, promote, and help run the open house meetings. Open house attendees received either a HOP card or a Fred Meyer gift card, while Centro Cultural provided food, interpretation services, and daycare upon request. JLA worked with community liaisons to speak with community members where they are already gathered (i.e., churches, community centers, etc.). JLA was able to speak with 51 members of the community.

TriMet staff updated the proposal in response to the City of Portland's passage of an ordinance adopting the Rose Lane Plan. TriMet's update honors a commitment to begin increasing bus service on the streets with Rose Lane transit priority treatments.

In February 2020, TriMet hosted two additional open house meetings – one in downtown Hillsboro and one in inner Southeast Portland – to provide information and solicit public comment on the revised proposal. Approximately 249 people attended the six open house meetings held during both outreach phases (the exact number is not known because not everyone signed in).

The service improvements were also reviewed with TriMet's Transit Equity Advisory Committee (TEAC), its Committee on Accessible Transportation (CAT), and its HB2017 Transit Advisory Committee.

Finally, public comment on the proposed service changes was accepted by phone, email and standard mail. The FY21 Annual Service Change Outreach Report is included in the Board packet for the March 25, 2020 Board meeting, and additional opportunity for public testimony is being provided during the meeting. A summary of any additional comments received during and after the March 25 Board meeting will be provided prior to the April 22, 2020 Board meeting.

### **C. Title VI Service Equity Analysis**

In accordance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Title VI Circular 4702.IB implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, major service changes must be analyzed to identify potential disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income populations. The five major service changes made by Ordinance No. 359 have been subjected to TriMet's Title VI analysis.

Included in the Board packet is the draft Title VI Service Equity Analysis Report (Title VI Report), which evaluated potential adverse effects and benefits associated with the proposed major service changes. To summarize, the Title VI concerns regarding the proposed service changes outlined in Ordinance No. 359 are minimal. Most of the proposed service changes significantly improve service for minority and low-income populations, with only the change to Line 16 affecting an area with relatively low minority population as compared to the TriMet district.

The South Hillsboro portion of Line 47 and Line 155 also serve a relatively low proportion of low-income households as compared to the entire TriMet district. Even so, improving service on these two lines does not raise any concern of an inequitable distribution of benefits given: a) the overall results of the system-level analysis; b) that the four lines proposed for improvements did not have any line-level Disparate Impacts; and c) the three lines proposed for improvements did not have any line-level Disproportionate Burdens.

The proposed service reduction to Line 47 initially may appear to create some disproportionate and adverse effects, considering the high concentrations of minority and low-income populations potentially impacted by the change. However, these impacts will be mitigated by the new bus line replacing service to the discontinued portion with a comparable level of service. At the same time, the proposed change might require some riders to transfer buses.

This concern caused TriMet Service Planners to launch on-board bus passenger surveys to assess trip patterns, in order to evaluate the impacts of the proposed route change. The surveys were conducted from September 30 to October 7, 2019, a week after school was

back in session at PCC Rock Creek. TriMet presented one 20-question survey in English and Spanish, and presented a separate three-question survey in twelve other languages. The surveys found no significant race and income differences when looking at the new route transfer question. Thus, the transfer created by the proposed Line 47 route change does not raise a significant level of concern with respect to Title VI.

The results and findings of the Title VI Service Equity Analysis Report is presented to the Board for its consideration at the March 25, 2020, meeting. The final Title VI Report with supplemental public feedback will be provided to the Board prior to the April 22, 2020 meeting.

**6. Financial/Budget Impact**

Service changes proposed in Ordinance No. 359 will result in a FY2021 budget impact of approximately \$5.4 million, paid for by revenues generated by the HB2017 funding.

**7. Impact if Not Approved**

The proposed service changes will enable TriMet to continue to respond to demands for service in growing parts of the District, formally implement TriMet's December 2019 experimental service improvements, meet its commitment to improve service on Rose Lane streets, provide expanded service overall, and maintain current service capacity and reliability. Additionally, adoption of Ordinance No. 359 will fulfill the FY2021 service improvements documented in TriMet's *Public Transportation Improvement Plan* (the HB 2017 Plan). Because the failure to adopt this Ordinance would forgo these benefits to the transit system, its adoption is recommended.

**ORDINANCE NO. 359**

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TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) ADOPTING  
SERVICE CHANGES AND REVISING ROUTE DESIGNATIONS (FIRST  
READING AND PUBLIC HEARING)**

The Board of Directors of the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet), pursuant to the authority of Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 267, having considered the Title VI Service Equity Analysis Final Report and having held a public hearing, does hereby ordain and decree the following Ordinance:

**Section 1- Adoption of Service Changes**

Service Changes are adopted as set forth on the attached Exhibit A, which is incorporated into and made part of this Ordinance. In accordance with TriMet Code Section 22.05, new Schedule Notices shall be filed for the affected lines.

**Section 2- Amendment of TriMet Code Chapter 22**

TriMet Code Section 22.05 is amended in accordance with the revised Route Designations set forth in the attached Exhibit A.

**Section 3- Effective/Operative Dates**

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after the date of its Second Reading. The operative dates for specific Service Changes and revised Route Designations are set forth on the attached Exhibit A.

Dated: March 25, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

Approved as to Legal Sufficiency:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Department

**EXHIBIT A TO ORDINANCE NO. 359**

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