

**DEI Committee**  
**Thursday, June 13, 3 - 4:15pm**  
**Via Zoom**

**Attending:**

Megan Adams – Portland Japanese Garden (PJG)  
Nina Avila – Hoyt Arboretum Friends (HAF)  
Keith Baich – Explore Washington Park (EWP)  
Marissa Clarke – TriMet  
Charetta Long – Oregon Zoo  
Meghan McCloskey - EWP  
Chirona Silverstein – EWP  
Clay Thompson – TriMet  
Pat Williams – TriMet  
Hallie Wilkerson – EWP

**Meeting Notes**

**TriMet Safety & Security**

A presentation is shared by TriMet on added security measures for vulnerable populations. The Reimagine program has led to series of efforts to ensure a safe and equitable transit system for everyone. These efforts include:

- **Safety Response Team:** Provides increased presence while supporting riders, discouraging inappropriate behavior, and conducting social service outreach.
- **National Vulnerable Populations and Transit Workgroup:** 15-20 agencies across the country, information and resource sharing, APTA Security Affairs subcommittee
- Increased presence and personnel on the system in the forms of customer safety supervisors, customer safety officers, safety response team, and Allied Universal.

**The new bill Senate Bill 1553-1: Interfering with Public Transit (ITP) Effective 1/1/2025**

This bill recognizes that people are vulnerable when stuck on a train with others. There is a clear drug problem in Portland, and this puts other individuals at risk on a train. Individuals can now be arrested if using drugs on the transit system.

- Feedback, concern, and comments [comments@trimet.org](mailto:comments@trimet.org)
- TriMet Personnel and Security Staff <https://trimet.org/about/personnel.htm>
- Security on TriMet <https://trimet.org/about/security.htm>

- Pat Williams – [Williamp@trimet.org](mailto:Williamp@trimet.org)
- Marissa Clarke – [clarkem@trimet.org](mailto:clarkem@trimet.org)
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## Partner Updates

### Oregon Zoo

1. **Zoo Bond Passage:** The zoo has passed a \$380 million bond for capital asset improvement. This will involve significant community engagement and discussions about the upgrades. A communications and engagement strategy are in development to ensure all voices are heard during the process.
2. **Educational Programs:** The zoo's education teams are actively conducting ZAP tours. However, they are not accepting any more tour requests at this time due to full capacity. Community partners should be informed about the ongoing revision of the Community Access Program, with new criteria to be developed in the coming weeks to enhance access for community partner organizations. More to come

### Explore Washington Park

1. **DEI Shuttle Pilot Program:** The first DEI shuttle with Viva Northwest is scheduled for next **Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**, in the park. This initiative includes discounted Japanese garden tickets and a Spanish-speaking tour guide. The shuttle aims to facilitate better access to the park for diverse communities, and initial responses indicate high interest and near sell-out status.
2. **Free Parking Validation Program:** This program remains popular, with over **200 codes** distributed so far. Although it might end in the next month or two once the codes are exhausted depending on when they were issued. This initiative has successfully provided discounted or free parking (up to three hours) for park visitors.
  - a. The Program will be paused but codes are valid until March 2025.
3. **Transit Pass Program:** This program, in collaboration with Portland Parks and Recreation, is designed to help disadvantaged groups access the park. Information about this program will be distributed to participants in the access discount program via mailers, reaching around 1,000 people citywide. This will also include details about the park and existing discount programs at various institutions.
  - a. <https://rto.explorewashingtonpark.org/> for more information.
4. **Community Partnerships: & Community Engagement:** The committee emphasized the importance of **iterative feedback from the community** to refine and improve programs continuously. This involves actively seeking and incorporating input from community

partners to ensure the programs meet the actual needs of the community. Partners are listed on the website, and there are efforts to inform them about various initiatives and opportunities for collaboration.

- a. Check out the partner page here: <https://rto.explorewashingtonpark.org/partners>
  - b. It might be helpful for the zoo to link to [the transit request form here](#).
5. **Upcoming Events and Tabling:** TriMet will have a presence at the Juneteenth Oregon Festival to distribute transit passes and provide information about the programs. Additionally, there will be a **small disruption to the Red Line Max system, with shuttles replacing service between Gateway and the airport from 8:00 PM to 4:00 AM** due to testing.
- a. **Transit Pass Program Tabling:** The program includes distributing transit passes at various events, including the Juneteenth Oregon Festival and local farmers markets. Partners are encouraged to share information about their upcoming events, which can be communicated through these outreach activities.
  - b. Explore Washington Park has a [transit distribution events page](#).
3. **Promotional and Informational Materials:** Washington Park is encouraged to utilize various promotional materials available, such as informational postcards, community flyers, and social media graphics. These materials are designed to inform visitors about the free transit pass program and other discount programs.
- a. Postcards and flyers can be found here:  
<https://rto.explorewashingtonpark.org/promo>
4. **Field Trips for Students:** The DEI shuttle pilot program will also support field trips for students, providing transportation to the park. This initiative aims to utilize transit passes or funding for school buses to facilitate student access to the park and its attractions.

### **TriMet**

TriMet will have a table at the Juneteenth event and Sunday, June 16, there will be brief disruption in the MAX Red Line leading to the airport for electromagnetic testing on the new type 6 trains.