

2020 Virtual Northwest Transit Exchange

October 8 and 9, 2020

Hosted by TriMet via WebEx Events

Welcome

TriMet is pleased to host the 7th annual Northwest Transit Exchange, a gathering of transit professionals from across the Northwest who will engage in 1.5 days of collaborative discussion, learning, and fellowship as we work together to maintain and enhance the mobility of our communities. Since the pandemic prevents us from gathering face-to-face this year, we will be conducting the event virtually.

Over the past 6 months, our transit systems have been subjected to intense pressures. Ridership has taken dramatic dives across all modes, and our agencies are now on the front lines as we take unprecedented measures to protect everyone who operates and uses transit. We are also challenged in the United States to operate safe and reliable transit services for all in a period of intense social turmoil. Despite these challenges, exciting work is happening in the transit industry. Bus lanes are gaining more traction, new and innovative services are being offered, and our operations are growing more efficient. Please join your colleagues for discussions and opportunities to learn from each other's work.

To participate: **Register by October 1, 2020 at <https://forms.gle/P7zotp5Fz9UsBcN8A>**. TriMet will distribute a WebEx link to registered attendees. WebEx events can be viewed on any browser.

Thursday, October 8

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| 9:00-9:15 | A Welcome from TriMet General Manager Doug Kelsey <i>Doug Kelsey has worked at TriMet since 2015 and was appointed TriMet's General Manager in 2018. Before joining TriMet, Doug served as Chief Operating Officer at TransLink in Vancouver, B.C., and president of the bus and rail companies. He was directly responsible for the transportation plans for the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games, and he has supported the strategic plans of other Olympic Games, including London and Sochi.</i> |
| 9:15-10:45 | Roundtable Discussion: Agency Reports and lessons learned from the Black Lives Matter movement and COVID-19 <i>A representative from each agency will brief the audience on highlights of the past year.</i> |
| <i>10:45 – 11:00 Break</i> | |
| 11:00-12:00 | Bus Electrification: A Case Study from King County Metro Matthew Crane and Danny Ilioiu, King County Metro <i>King County Metro staff will present on Metro's Zero Emissions fleet goal and the strategies being employed to achieve it. Danny Ilioiu (Zero Emissions Portfolio Manager) will discuss Metro's overall fleet electrification strategy and the Battery Electric Bus Program, while Matthew Crane (Capital Planning) will discuss the Trolley Expansion Program. This will include a discussion of capital projects underway in both programs that will be implemented by Metro within the next few years: the South Base Test Facility and Route 48 Electrification project.</i> |
| <i>12:00 - 1:00 Lunch break</i> | |
| 1:00 – 1:45 | The Benefits of Enhanced Transit Corridors in Portland Brenda Martin and Madeline Steele, TriMet <i>TriMet Service Planner, Brenda Martin, and Electronic Survey Developer and Analyst, Madeline Steele, will discuss the development and outcomes of the first round of Enhanced Transit Concept (ETC) projects, The Big Three. They will review the planning and design of the three bridgehead projects, as well as the travel time savings found after the implementation of the bus priority lanes. The presenters will then share the methods and outcomes of an on-board and online rider survey about the projects conducted in January 2020. The presenters hope to demonstrate the importance of both travel time and customer perception data for understanding the real benefits of bus priority infrastructure.</i> |
| 1:45 – 2:30 | Linking Transit Service Growth to Infrastructure Needs Levi Megenbir, Lead Senior Transit Planner, BC Transit <i>For transit service to be successful it needs the infrastructure to support it, including bus stops, exchanges and operating centers. This presentation will discuss effective strategies of ensuring service and infrastructure needs are aligned.</i> |
| <i>2:30 – 2:45 Break</i> | |
| 2:45 – 3:30 | New service, old transit center: A TriMet case study Luke Norman, TriMet <i>As planners we're often tasked with accommodating increased bus service into existing transit and layover facilities. This presentation will explore low-cost, near-term changes that were implemented at the Beaverton Transit Center to support immediate service needs and prepare for long-term improvements.</i> |
| 3:30 – 4:15 | Labor Relations in Times of Crisis Steve Dickey, Cherriots and Lora Francis, TriMet <i>The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged transit agencies to provide reliable service in a time when fewer operators and other front-line staff are available. Join Steve Dickey (Cherriots), and Lora Francis (TriMet) to learn how these agencies are responding to reduced staffing levels, and protecting workers from the virus, all while providing safe and reliable service to the public.</i> |
| 4:15-4:30 | Closing Remarks TriMet |

Friday, October 9

9:00- **C-TRAN Mill Plain BRT Project Virtual Tour**

10:00 *The Mill Plain BRT project extends approximately ten miles from Downtown Vancouver to near Mill Plain Blvd. & 192nd Ave. in East Vancouver, with 37 stations and one new transit center. The Mill Plain Blvd. corridor has C-TRAN's second-highest transit ridership, making it the logical next step for bus rapid transit in Clark County after the successful implementation of the Vine in 2017. The project is expected to open in fall 2022. C-TRAN will present its in-house produced virtual tour of the project, and make "stops" along the way to answer questions and provide additional detail.*

10:00- **Tofino-Ucluelet Transit: A Unique Service Design for B.C.'s West Coast**

10:45 Melissa Coates, Transportation Coordinator

The remote west coast of Vancouver Island is home to the thriving communities and popular tourist destinations of Tofino and Ucluelet. The growth of these communities and their environmental stewardship has ignited the desire to realize the development of a robust multi-modal transportation system across their region. The introduction of a public transit route is a key element of their strategy to help tackle summertime congestion issues and promote transit as a viable option to travel for work or pleasure across the key attractors of each town and to visit the pristine west coast beaches that dot the route along the journey. In collaboration with local governments, First Nations communities, and Parks Canada, a new service has been designed to support essential travel for residents and provide multi-modal options for tourists. The Tofino-Ucluelet Service Plan considers the viability of having surfboards on buses while balancing the need to provide a safe and viable fixed route transit service their communities.

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00- **How to Create the Most Efficient Transit System in North America**

11:45 Bronson Bullivant, Senior Transit Planner, BC Transit

How is transit service success defined in a resort community and how is success achieved? The Resort Municipality of Whistler and BC Transit have worked cooperatively to create a transit system that can effectively and efficiently move residents and tourists around Whistler. This presentation will walk the audience through recent planning initiatives completed by BC Transit and how the Resort Municipality of Whistler has supported transit through creative funding sources, marketing and transit oriented development.

11:45- **Closing Remarks**

12:00
