

Transportation Funding Task Force
April 1st - Meeting 21
Written Testimony

Sent: 3/18/2020

From: Brett Baylor

Subject: Metro 2020 Transportation Package -- bus electrification

My name is Brett Baylor, and in 2015 I retired as the manager of database systems at TriMet. During my 27 years at TriMet, I was proud of the community leadership that Metro and TriMet jointly exercised to create our uniquely Oregonian meld of urban planning, environmental stewardship and transportation service. Often I was told by others how fortunate they were to have such a transit system. It meant more than just the paycheck to be a TriMet employee.

Recent years have not fared so well for TriMet, and current leadership's 2040 vehicle electrification plan is an example — we no longer have 20 years to convert to fossil-free fleets. Governor Brown's recent executive orders on greenhouse gas reduction, and Mayor Wheeler's declaration of an acute climate emergency require more ambitious action from Metro, the TriMet Board, and General Manager Kelsey in particular.

I understand there are issues with BEB buses currently in use and testing. TriMet engineers and mechanics are working closely with vendors to resolve these issues, and these should be resolved within the next 18 months. Of course in this time of declining ridership we really cannot afford for our customers to feel service has become increasingly unreliable. But these are pretty normal problems given new technology, and once resolved can lead to accelerated adoptions.

The 2040 plan needs to become a 2030 plan, or at worst a 2035 plan. With additional funding from Metro T2020 TriMet should be able to commit to and budget for these goals. TriMet possesses many highly skilled professionals who I personally know would enthusiastically support such goals, had they the inspirational leadership we once had in people like Fred Hansen and Carolyn Young.

Please redirect TriMet toward a faster transition. How, and how quickly, we get there matters.

Brett Baylor

808 SE Lambert St.

Portland, 97202

503-730-8130

baylorb@comcast.net



Washington County

**Community Participation Organization #7
(CPO 7)**

Sunset West/Rock Creek/Bethany
Box 173, 4804 Bethany Blvd, Suite I-2
Portland, OR 97229

March 15, 2020

Metro Transportation Task Force
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Task Force Members:

Please consider modifying your proposed 185th Avenue Corridor to include improvement of 185th Avenue to three lanes between Springville Road and Germantown Road. CPO 7 believes there will be stronger community support for the proposed Regional Transportation Funding Measure if the improvements to the 185th Avenue corridor were expanded to include improvements to this segment of 185th Avenue.

CPO 7 represents the Washington County communities mainly between the cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton (Baseline Road to the south, Cornelius Pass to the west, the Multnomah/Washington County line to the north and Cedar Mill/Cedar Hills to the east). Washington County staff presented the proposed improvements to the 185th corridor at our March 9 CPO 7 meeting. Questions were raised by our membership during this meeting about why the needs of ethnically diverse population of North Bethany and the student population of the Portland Community College (PCC) campus at Rock Creek were not being addressed as part of this corridor improvement.

Currently the transportation infrastructure serving both Rock Creek PCC and North Bethany community is inadequate. The 2002 Urban Growth Boundary expansion in North Bethany was implemented to serve a regional housing need without corresponding funding for the needed transportation infrastructure. Rock Creek PCC serves the Metro region with unique programs not available elsewhere in the PCC system.

Without our identified improvements to 185th, the majority of traffic from PCC and North Bethany has only one way in and one way out of the area. With our requested improvements to 185th, both vehicular capacity and transit to North Bethany and the Portland Community College campus at Rock Creek could be enhanced. Safety for area residents would be improved by directing major traffic flows from residential streets.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,

Andrew Lamkin
CPO 7 Chair

Letter authorized by CPO 7 Steering Committee on 3/15/2020

CC: Pam Treece, JuanCarlos Gonzalez, Kyle Armstrong