

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: 6/26/12 **Approx Start Time:** 2:30pm **Approx Length:** 1 hour

Presentation Title: Light Rail Safety and Security

Department: County Administration

Presenters: Steve Wheeler, Neil McFarlane

Other Invitees:

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

No action requested; briefing only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At his request, TriMet General Manager Neil McFarlane will address the Clackamas County Commission to provide information on TriMet's commitment to safety and security now, and in the future.

ATTACHMENTS:

TriMet flyer: *Security essential to regional transit system*

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval _____

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact _____ @ 503-_____

Security essential to regional transit system

Building and operating a secure transit system is essential to the success of our region. Each weekday, TriMet provides some 330,000 trips on buses, MAX light rail and WES Commuter Rail trains. That adds up to more than 100 million trips a year.

Systemwide, this ridership level typically generates about three reported crimes a day—most reports involve property, such as vandalism, not crimes against people. For MAX, there were nearly 42 million trips taken on the system during 2011 and 504 reported crimes.

Transit Police Division

TriMet takes a regional approach to addressing security with a professional police force and security personnel, a detailed code of conduct, security cameras and a system design that discourages crime. And, as the system expands, TriMet increases its investment in security.

The Transit Police Division (TPD) is a division of the Portland Police Bureau and is led by a Portland Police commander. TPD has 62 officers, including command staff, representing all three counties and 14 other jurisdictions.

- All incidents on the transit system are coordinated through the regional 9-1-1 system, allowing the closest available unit to serve as the first responders.
- TPD officers augment the work of various law enforcement agencies by evaluating and tracking issues and trends on the transit system and collaborating with local jurisdictions on solutions.
- TPD officers spend up to 70 percent of their time patrolling the system.
- The division currently includes three K-9 units and is adding a fourth unit this summer.

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A Transit Police Division officer checks passengers for valid fares on MAX.

The TPD has four precincts:

1. East Precinct in Gresham
2. West Precinct in Hillsboro
3. South Precinct at Clackamas Town Center
4. Central Precinct in downtown Portland

Dedicated prosecution

TriMet has a dedicated Deputy District Attorney on staff to focus on prosecuting incidents against riders, employees and property, even minor incidents. TriMet contracts with the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office for this position, which has led to successful prosecutions.

Security cameras

- Currently, 85 percent of all MAX stations have closed circuit TV (CCTV) cameras. The entire MAX system will have platform cameras installed in 2013.
- All new MAX station platforms have CCTV camera systems installed.

- CCTV cameras are on every MAX train and on two-thirds of the bus fleet.
- Cameras are in all parking garages and elevators.

Fare enforcement

- TriMet has expanded the number of fare enforcers to check fares with a focus on enforcement. Riders without a valid fare face a \$175 citation on the first offense and/or exclusion from the system. Exclusions can extend up to 90 days.
- Since the change to fare enforcement, there has been more than a 10-fold increase in the number of citations. Riders caught without a valid fare had more than an 80 percent chance of receiving a citation or exclusion.
- TPD officers, as well as officers from other jurisdictions, check fares on MAX trains.
- Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) have been updated, including the replacement of all of the original TVMs.
- The TVM field technician staff has doubled, covering two shifts a day, seven days a week. Real-time reports are used to track service issues and speed repairs.
- TVM reliability is now more than 90 percent.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) helps prevent crime by designing a physical environment that positively influences human behavior—people who use the area regularly perceive it as safe and would-be criminals are deterred.

TriMet engineers work with security staff and law enforcement officials to evaluate light rail platform designs early in the planning stages to incorporate crime prevention principles into each new project.

- Stations are designed with open sight lines by placing platform furniture (benches, signage and shelters) in a way that does not create hiding places and keeps the area uncluttered.

- Stations, walkways and Park & Ride areas are well lit. Landscaping helps define station boundaries.
- To maximize enforcement at stations, TriMet creates fare zone platforms when feasible. Ticket Vending Machines are installed away from platforms, so riders need a valid fare on the platform. This allows security personnel to engage before boarding a train.
- Existing station areas are also reviewed to enhance sight lines and lighting, add CCTV cameras and other security measures.

Tools for enforcement

- TriMet has an extended and streamlined Interdiction Command option to allow rowdy or intimidating riders to be immediately removed from the transit system for six hours, up from the previous limit of four hours.
- The TriMet Code was revised to add intimidation as behavior restricted on the system, including violent, threatening or disruptive behavior or conduct intended and likely to provoke a violent response. The code change also restricts excessively boisterous and unreasonably loud conduct.
- Juvenile detention has been extended to allow for a safety hold for up to 36 hours for repeat offenders violating the TriMet code or engaged in certain criminal activity to allow officials to work with the youths and their families to stop the activity.

Prevention

- TriMet uses contracted security to provide an additional presence on the system.
- Graffiti is removed within 24 hours at busy MAX stations and transit stations.

Available in other formats:

trimet.org

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