

March 1, 2012

Executive Director Neal McFarlane  
TriMet  
4012 SE 17th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Mr. McFarlane,

The Lake Oswego City Council and the Lake Oswego School Board recognize the significant economic and service challenges that TriMet has in balancing its budget and in meeting the needs of transit riders. We want to work with you to determine options for the provision of cost effective service that is ultimately useful for our residents and for increased Lake Oswego ridership.

We recognize that the process to develop reduction proposals and also inform the public has been inclusive and thorough. Our constituencies were able to learn of TriMet's struggles and also provide input on solutions. TriMet's efforts are to be commended.

We understand the challenges that you and the TriMet Board face. However, the members of the Lake Oswego City Council and Lake Oswego School Board question that the changes to service in Lake Oswego will help the bottom line. Lake Oswego is a City that is mainly East to West; this is where our bus service is most limited. Cuts to our East/West service are the last sort of reduction that we can afford. It takes our youth further away from being able to use bus service as a means to get through and around Lake Oswego and also for residents to connect to employment and economic centers such as Bridgport, Lake Grove, Downtown Lake Oswego, OHSU and Downtown Portland.

People whose bus times are proposed to be canceled have no alternative service to choose from, no ability to catch a later bus from work, and also no ability to transfer. Cutting of the capacity to use the East/West routes, means more people choosing their cars all together, or driving to a Park and Ride or to park on city streets and await the North/South connections.

The elimination of the 6:26 p.m. transfer at Lake Oswego Transit Center for the 36-South Shore means that, in order to get the Line 36 connection, the only two buses a person can catch in downtown Portland, after 5:00 p.m., are at 5:13 p.m. or 5:15 p.m. (35-Macadam/Greeley). Both of these buses leave the Lake Oswego Transit Center at 5:48 p.m., making it an impossibly close connection to switch from the Line 35 to the Line 36. Also, while there was an effort to eliminate redundant service, our Line

36 riders have two choices, 2 minutes apart from one another for service after 5:00 p.m. – that is it. The buses both go down Macadam at the same time. It seems that there must be a better scenario that might spread service out, allow later service, and allow for our residents along Line 36 to have an assurance that they can take the bus to and from work.

For the 37-Lake Grove bus, a similar situation is occurring. Already sparse service will be eliminated for those who desire to move West after 4:25 p.m. For Lake Oswego, Line 37 is of particular interest as it connects our business centers and with important transit connections. However, the lack of regular service makes this route difficult to use.

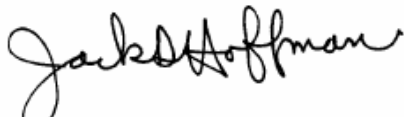
We understand that cutting bus service further is not an easy decision and is a result of the degree of the repeated cuts. However, there is a point where service options are so limited, that using the bus for regular transportation is no longer an option. To run an effective transit system, with adequate ridership, using transit should not be just when one has to, but because the system works and one can use it in an affordable and dependable way. When service gets so watered down, it is not surprising that ridership is low.

We understand the situation TriMet faces and know that we all have to be creative and adjust. Every choice is difficult. We do want to offer support proposals for fare increases, better utilization of the all day pass for two way fare, and the discussion on whether the Rail Free Zone should continue.

We would like to work with you to see if there is a way to reach your financial target while improving the service for riders in Lake Oswego. There may be opportunities to adjust routes, connections to improve service and cost effectiveness.

On behalf of the Lake Oswego City Council and the Lake Oswego School Board, we thank you for your consideration of the issues within Lake Oswego.

Respectfully,



Jack Hoffman, Mayor  
Lake Oswego City Council



John Wendland, Chair  
Lake Oswego School Board

Pc: TriMet Board of Directors  
TriMet Budget Feedback  
Lake Oswego School Board  
Lake Oswego City Council