

August 2023 TEAC Summary

TEAC Meetings are now following a hybrid-meeting schedule. Staff welcomed the new offices at One Main Place. Members toured the facility and were very pleased with the new layout and accessibility of the new meeting space.

Staff provided an overview of fall service changes, following the Forward Together 5-6 year service concepts focusing on extending service to serve more of our community with improved connections. The service changes will take effect on August 27, 2023.

The majority of the meeting was focused on TEAC's review the Draft Fare Subsidy RFP. This research project will be used to educate and inform TriMet and our community partners of the available programs and resources transit agencies in the United States are utilizing to provide more accessible and lower-cost transit alternatives.

The project will collect and analyze information from transit agencies focused on three areas of research, including

1. Promising program practices in transit for supporting vulnerable rider groups
2. Funding sources of subsidized fare programs
3. Zero fare systems

TriMet is interested in increasing access and ridership as we work to increase our support of vulnerable rider groups. TriMet is also interested in understanding how other agencies have engaged riders, reduced cost and enrollment barriers for community members, how ridership has changed, and the unforeseen and expected outcomes experienced with the program implementation.

The goal of the project is to identify 3-5 promising practices across the United States, using external funding, that could be explored across the TriMet Service District. This task involves identifying and presenting program models and rider specific impacts that serve vulnerable rider groups

TriMet will be provided with final project reports, which compiles the results of the research and outlines the findings, program descriptions, outcomes, customer feedback, and funding sources.

On-site or virtual final presentation of findings for committee members and TriMet staff.

TEAC Members provided input on what a scaled level could entail for the research, casting a broader net to include programs that may be excluded due to population or service region but could be built upon, and casting a large net and coming up with programs that may not be sustainable. The group suggested going with a minimum of 6M per year and a population of 500K in service area population.

The group was asked to review the full RFP and submit final edits and comments by August 15 in advance of the Fare subsidy workgroup meeting on August 23, 2023.