



The Street Trust
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March 26, 2024

Sam Desue, Jr.
TriMet General Manager
101 SW Main St., Suite 700
Portland, OR 97204

Subject: Letter of Support for TriMet EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for Next Generation Transit Signal Priority (TSP)

Dear Mr. Desue,

I am writing on behalf of The Street Trust to express our unequivocal support for the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet), in partnership with Metro, in their application for the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. This application seeks federal funding in the amount of \$8.6 million for the crucial expansion of the Better Bus Program, a proven and successful initiative that exemplifies collaborative and innovative efforts to mitigate climate pollution and enhance transit efficiency across our region.

TriMet and Metro's proposal to utilize these funds to implement next generation Transit Signal Priority (TSP) technology on four additional bus routes by 2029 represents a significant leap forward in our shared ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This strategy is not only aligned with but also an extension of the recommendations from the recently completed Regional Priority Climate Action Plan, which identified such innovations as cost-effective solutions to our environmental challenges.

The project's dual focus on environmental improvement and transit effectiveness—by reducing emissions, enhancing bus route efficiency, and making public transportation a more competitive option—mirrors the EPA's objectives. It promises high returns on investment through not just monetary savings but more importantly, in terms of

substantial environmental benefits and improved public transportation for communities, especially those historically disadvantaged and in areas of persistent poverty.

Moreover, the comprehensive scope of this grant, covering hardware, software, design, and training costs, signifies a holistic approach to implementing a sustainable, future-proof transit infrastructure. The project's emphasis on training local jurisdictions and agencies to utilize next generation TSP technology further showcases a commitment to long-term success and community empowerment.

By funding this project, the EPA will not only support a cost-effective and impactful environmental strategy but will also bolster our region's efforts to provide equitable, efficient, and environmentally responsible public transportation solutions. The expansion of the Better Bus Program under this grant will be a testament to what can be achieved when federal and local entities collaborate towards a common goal of climate resilience and sustainability.

At The Street Trust, we work to break political gridlock and win policy and investments that save lives, reduce barriers, and expand mobility and opportunities to the people and neighborhoods our current system neglects. We are excited about the potential of this project to transform our transit systems and significantly contribute to the reduction of climate pollution for communities that need it most. We strongly endorse TriMet and Metro's application for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and urge the grant review committee to consider this proposal favorably.

Thank you for considering our support for this vital project. Should you require further information or wish to discuss this endorsement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Iannarone
Executive Director, The Street Trust
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