



Date March 21, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Desue,

We are writing in support of the TriMet and Metro Regional Government request for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) to fund the design and construction of next-generation Transit Signal Priority (TSP) projects in areas experiencing transit delay within the TriMet system.

Idling vehicles and delay are two of the primary causes of transportation emissions, and vehicle delay is also a significant disincentive to bus ridership. This project is a cost-effective investment to address these issues by improving transit travel time and reliability, but funding opportunities to make corridor-length TSP investments happen outside of larger-scale Capital Investment Grant Projects are limited. This CPRG implementation grant will provide crucial support for improving transit travel time, reducing vehicle idling, and increasing mode shift to transit with targeted investments in Historically Disadvantaged Communities and Areas of Persistent Poverty.

Transit signal prioritization projects are only made possible by a collaborative effort between agencies, local governments, and labor. TriMet and Metro have a history of successfully leading these projects with their Better Bus program, which has implemented more than 50 projects in the region, serving 39 TriMet routes and addressing 4,400 hours of passenger delay. With leadership from TriMet and Metro, this funding will expand upon that success.

Should TriMet receive funding through CPRG, City of Beaverton will commit to:

- Participating in design efforts of Next Gen TSP projects, using the regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture.
- Attending related training for Traffic Operations Center, traffic engineering and Information Systems staff.
- Reserving staff capacity for grant-supported testing and configuring new traffic signal controllers for grant-related Next Gen TSP.

- Problem-solving in collaboration with TriMet and other public agencies connected to a Central Traffic Signal System.
- Monitoring performance metrics to assure mutual benefits are realized for the general public and operator agencies.

As a project partner, we are excited by this opportunity to build on Metro and TriMet's successful Better Bus program to support transit equity for our community members who need it most. Efficient public transit is a critical way we can keep people moving while meeting our ambitious climate goals; thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant that would allow us to continue this great work for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tim Elsea", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Elsea, PE
Beaverton Public Works Director