

RPC 2018-010
Local Elected Accountability for TriMet

WHEREAS public transit is essential to meeting the current and future needs of Washington County residents;

WHEREAS public transit provides a way for residents to commute to work, access education, visit libraries, and participate in many other activities;

WHEREAS local elected boards afford residents a unique and important opportunity to directly voice their concerns and meaningfully impact their communities;

WHEREAS the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet), the agency that oversees public transit in the Portland metropolitan area, is currently governed by an unelected board chosen by the Governor of the State of Oregon; and

WHEREAS more than 80% of TriMet's budget of over \$700 million is sourced from the people living in the area served by TriMet, including both passenger fares and a special Portland-area payroll tax^[1];

THEREFORE the Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC) of Oregon resolves as follows:

1. TriMet should be directly accountable to the people who use and fund it;
2. A board elected by the voters of the TriMet service area should be responsible for its governance; and
3. Washington County's elected representatives at the state and municipal level should advocate for research into the formation of such an elected TriMet board.

^[1]According to Tri-Met's 2018-2019 Budget Statement: "approximately 95.6% of TriMet's revenues come from three sources: payroll tax revenues (63.9%), passenger revenues (18.0%) and federal formula funds (13.7%)." Potential additional revenue from the State of Oregon authorized by the recently-approved transportation package is expected to total \$35-\$40 million annually, representing around 5% of Tri-Met's operating revenue.

Resolution submitted by Patrick Maguire, R&PC Member – July 3, 2018

Approved by R&PC – July 3, 2018

Adopted by WCDCC – July 25, 2018