


Date: September 27, 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Sam Desue, Jr. 

Subject: ORDINANCE NO. 375 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) AMENDING TRIMET CODE CHAPTER 19 TO ALLOW CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TO QUALIFY FOR HONORED CITIZEN FARE (FIRST READING AND PUBLIC HEARING)

1. Purpose of Item

Ordinance No. 375 will amend Chapter 19 of the TriMet Code to allow veterans and active duty individuals in the United States Armed Forces to qualify for the TriMet Honored Citizen fare.

2. Type of Agenda Item

- Initial Contract
- Contract Modification
- Ordinance

3. Reason for Board Action

The proposed change in the definition of who qualifies for an Honored Citizen fare requires an amendment of the TriMet Code, which may be amended only by an ordinance adopted by the Board of Directors. Adoption of Ordinance No. 375 requires two readings and a public hearing. This is the first reading and public hearing.

4. Type of Action

- Resolution
- Ordinance 1st Reading
- Ordinance 2nd Reading
- Other _____

5. Background

A. Honored Citizen Fare Qualification

TriMet’s Honored Citizen program offers half-fares and 72% off the cost of monthly fares through fare capping for qualifying riders. Currently, the Honored Citizen program offers reduced fare benefits to individuals who qualify based on age, disability, or income. Unless otherwise qualified, U.S. military veterans and active duty personnel do not currently qualify for TriMet’s Honored Citizen age based program. There are approximately 51,000 veterans between ages 17-64 and 10,000 active duty military statewide, a significant portion of whom are located in the TriMet region. Expansion of eligibility in the Honored Citizen program to include former and current members of the United States Armed Forces would provide recognition to those who served their country and currently serve, and would offer broader

access to transit to these individuals.

B. Public Outreach and Title VI Fare Increase Equity Analysis.

Combined with fare capping, TriMet's reduced fare programs are some of the most rider-friendly policies in the nation. TriMet is committed to maintaining equity across programs and offerings with the expansion of the Honored Citizen program to include U.S. military veterans and active duty personnel. Marketing and outreach will target specific channels and include contacting local organizations currently involved with military groups. Website information will be updated to include the new classification and enrollment information.

Nationally, the veteran population consists of approximately 25% people of color, and this demographic increases annually. Further, approximately 10% of the veteran population lives under the federal poverty level and 11.1% experience report living in a household with food insecurity. As a result, TriMet's Title VI Equity review concluded that the inclusion of this reduced fare qualification proposed by Ordinance No. 375 would have no disparate impact on riders who are minority and would impose no disproportionate burden on riders who earn a low income.

Although the Title VI analysis finds that there will be no impacts requiring mitigation, as a result of the inclusion of military status to qualify for reduced fare, TriMet staff will incorporate Veteran outreach as part of the ongoing community engagement and fare program information efforts.

6. Financial/Budget Impact

Ordinance No. 375 proposes an expansion of the number of individuals who qualify for an Honored Citizen fare. Adoption of this amendment is estimated to cost \$122,000 per year. However, with new enrollments and increased community engagement, we expect to see new ridership and increased use of the transit system as a result of this expansion of the Honored Citizen program.

7. Impact if Not Approved

Should the Board not adopt the proposed Ordinance No. 375, the existing definition of Honored Citizen will remain the same and current and former members of the United States Armed Forces will not be able to qualify for Honored Citizen fare.

ORDINANCE NO. 375

**ORDINANCE NO. 375 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) ADOPTING
AMENDING TRIMET CODE CHAPTER 19 TO ALLOW CURRENT AND
FORMER MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TO
QUALIFY FOR HONORED CITIZEN FARE (SECOND READING)**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET), pursuant to the authority of ORS Chapter 267, having reviewed, considered and approved the Final Title VI Transit Equity Analysis and considered testimony offered during a public hearing, does hereby ordain and decree the following Ordinance:

Section 1- Amendment of TriMet Code

TriMet Code Chapter 19 is hereby amended as set forth on the attached Exhibit A, which is incorporated herein and made part of this Ordinance No. 375.

Section 2- Effective / Operative Dates

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after the date of its Second Reading, and the amendment of the Honored Citizen definition found at TriMet Code Chapter 19.05 shall become operative on January 1, 2024.

Dated: September 27, 2023.

Presiding Officer

Attest:

Recording Secretary

Approved as to Legal Sufficiency:



Legal Department

Exhibit A
CHAPTER 19 – FARES

19.05 **Definitions.** As used in this Chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

A. “Honored Citizen” means:

- (1) Persons 65 years of age or older who show valid government-issued photo identification showing proof of age, or a valid TriMet photo Honored Citizen Card;
- (2) Persons under 65 years of age registered legally blind by the Commission for the Blind who show a valid TriMet Honored Citizen Card;
- (3) Persons under 65 years of age registered disabled by the Social Security Administration who show a valid TriMet Honored Citizen Card;
- (4) Persons under 65 years of age who are certified disabled by the State of Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Division, State of Oregon Senior and Disabled Services Division or by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board when each applies the same standards of disability as are applicable to persons who are determined to be disabled pursuant to subparagraph 3 above and who show a valid TriMet Honored Citizen Card;
- (5) Veterans and active duty military under 65 years of age who show a valid certified ~~100% disabled by the Veterans Administration who show a valid~~ TriMet Honored Citizen Card;
- (6) Persons under 65 years of age qualifying as “Temporarily Disabled” under criteria established by TriMet, and so certified by a licensed physician, and who show a valid TriMet Honored Citizen Card;
- (7) Persons qualified eligible by the Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah or Washington County Association for Retarded Citizens, or the Clackamas, Multnomah or Washington County Mental Health Association under the criteria established by TriMet and those agencies, who show a valid TriMet Honored Citizen STAR Card (marked with a “STAR”);
- (8) Persons under 65 years of age, not verified disabled by the Commission for the Blind, Social Security Administration, United States Railroad Retirement Board or the Veterans Administration, but who qualify as disabled under criteria established by TriMet and are so certified by a licensed physician, and who show a valid TriMet Honored Citizen Card;
- (9) Persons certified by a licensed physician or health or social service professional to qualify for a TriMet Honored Citizen “A” Card (marked with an “A”) under criteria established by TriMet and who show a valid TriMet Honored Citizen “A” Card;
- (10) Persons qualified eligible by C-Tran who show a valid C-Tran Senior, C-Tran Disabled, or C-Tran C-Van Identification Card; and

(11) Persons who show a valid Medicare Card and either (a) valid government-issued photo identification or (b) a valid TriMet photo Honored Citizen Card, as proof of identity for the Medicare Card.