

Date: November 13, 2013

To: Board of Directors

From: Neil McFarlane

Subject: **RESOLUTION 13-11-67 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) ADOPTING AN ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY**

1. Issue or Purpose of the Item.

The purpose of this item is to request that the TriMet Board of Directors (Board) adopt a resolution adopting an accountability policy and directing the General Manager to establish an Accountability Web Page and an Accountability Committee for the purposes of maintaining that Web Page, and to investigate new technologies to permit remote access to Board meetings.

2. Reason for Board Action.

The Board may formally adopt by resolution an accountability policy to further the agency's governance and may direct the General Manager to take steps in the furtherance of that policy.

3. Background.

At its retreats in 2012 and 2013, the Board discussed ways in which the public could be better informed, more engaged, and more participatory in significant TriMet decisions for which such public involvement would be beneficial. In an effort to expand the public's knowledge, the proposed accountability policy captures the commitment that certain agency financial information, policies and discussions be accessible to the public in a manner that is in keeping with a society that values and relies upon electronic media.

The proposed policy also reflects the Oregon State Legislature's efforts to enact laws that set a minimum standard for availability of key information that can be instrumental in furthering the goals of accountability, including open access of the informational assets of government, inclusion of all relevant constituents' input, and education so that interested persons can meaningfully participate. The intent of the policy is to exceed the State's aspirational goals by including information and processes that are uniquely suited for transit and transit interests.

By creating an Accountability Committee that includes appropriate staff and one current Board member, ever-changing informational needs will be considered which ensures that the agency's Web Page is up to date with the most relevant information and with due consideration to current issues. In addition, the Accountability Committee can consider technological advances, as they occur, that can cost effectively further these goals in innovative ways. The Accountability Committee will report its recommendations to the General Manager.

4. Options, If Any.

The Board could choose not to adopt the policy, but it is desirable to adopt a policy to reinforce the Board's commitment to accountability.

5. Recommendation.

The General Manager recommends approval of the Resolution.

RESOLUTION 13-11-67

RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) ADOPTING AN ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY

WHEREAS, the TriMet Board of Directors (Board) has authority under ORS Chapter 267 to adopt policies regarding the governance of the agency; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that openness in government fosters public understanding of the issues; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that inclusion is important to public participation, which is critical to understanding our region's transit needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that public education of agency issues is valuable and fosters interest in a sound regional transit system; and

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to the tripartite goals of accountability: openness, inclusion, and education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The General Manager shall establish an Accountability Committee that has a Board Member as one of its constituents.
2. The General Manager shall establish an Accountability Web Page over which the Accountability Committee shall have primary responsibility. The Web Page shall contain at least the minimum elements designated in ORS 184.480 *et seq.*, and which appropriately relate to the agency's operation and/or business matters.
3. The Accountability Committee shall also investigate technology to allow remote participation at Board meetings without undue financial burden to the agency.

Dated: _____

Presiding Officer

Attest:

Recording Secretary

Approved as to Legal Sufficiency:

Legal Department