

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

DATE: November 4, 2016

BETWEEN: The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet)

AND: Mount Hood Community College (MHCC)

AND: City of Gresham

AND: Metro

AND: Multnomah County

The Division BRT project was originally planned to provide direct service to MHCC. Due to funding constraints, the BRT connection between the Gresham Transit Center (Gresham TC) and MHCC has been eliminated per direction of the project Steering Committee. The BRT service will now terminate at the Gresham TC. However, MHCC, TriMet, Metro, Multnomah County and City of Gresham recognize the importance of improved access to/from MHCC and the need for the project's terminus to be defined as a special place. To address this, MHCC, TriMet, Metro, Multnomah County and City of Gresham have developed this MOU.

The parties agree that access to the training, education, and support programs provided by MHCC affords the opportunity for all students, especially low income and minority students, to realize their individual potential. They believe that improving access, creating safe, attractive and comfortable stops, developing the Gresham TC as an attractive terminus that serves as a key gateway to Downtown Gresham, and designing a gateway to the MHCC campus served by transit, will contribute to a sense of place and connection among the broader community, as well as enhance the community's economic health and vibrancy. Increasing access to MHCC from the Gresham TC, from other regional transit lines, and by other active transportation modes for students, faculty, and staff can reduce pressure on MHCC, as well as the City of Gresham, to expand parking preserving scarce resources for infrastructure that more directly benefit student learning and downtown Gresham development.

In recognition of the importance and benefits of enhanced transit access to MHCC, this MOU is intended to document the commitments and actions that TriMet, MHCC and the City of Gresham will undertake to further improve such access as well as place making at the Gresham TC and to document the support of these efforts by Metro and Multnomah County.

TriMet, MHCC, and the City of Gresham understand the following:

Near-term (2016-2017):

- **Enhanced Frequency on Line 20:** Subject to review and approval by TriMet's Board of Directors consistent with the TriMet Code and Title VI equity analysis, TriMet commits to making enhancements in weekday frequency on Line 20 so that buses will arrive about every 15 minutes from the AM peak starting around 7:30 am through the day to the end of the PM peak after 5 pm in two steps: one in Spring 2017 and the remainder in Fall 2017. TriMet will work to minimize transfer times for MHCC-bound riders by coordinating schedules to the extent practical on Line 20 at Gresham TC and Rockwood with Blue Line MAX service and BRT service when it opens.
- **MHCC partner advertisements on buses:** TriMet will create partner ads with MHCC and run those ads on buses with available advertising space that serve east Multnomah County and Portland including Line 20.
- **Fare assistance:** TriMet will help MHCC promote Access Transit: Fare Assistance Program participation by eligible MHCC GED (General Education Development) students as well as the availability of reduced youth fares for eligible GED program participants. In addition, TriMet will entertain proposals from MHCC about reduced fare options for community college students.
- **Real-time arrival displays on campus:** TriMet will provide three real-time arrival display screens and brackets for installation indoors on the MHCC campus before January 9, 2017 (which is the start of Winter classes). TriMet will provide guidance and technological assistance to install displays including guidance on network hookups and help configuring the electronic contents of the displays to meet MHCC's needs. MHCC will provide three weather-protected indoor locations with access to electrical power and internet connection and would be responsible for any permitting, long-term maintenance and replacement. MHCC facilities staff will install screens with technical support from TriMet. MHCC and TriMet will complete an intergovernmental agreement together to define final details and allow conveyance of the equipment to MHCC consistent with this MOU.
- **Real-time arrival displays at Gresham TC and Rockwood:** If adequate power and network connections already exist, TriMet will provide and install weather-resistant real-time arrival displays at MHCC-bound Line 20 stops at Gresham TC and Rockwood. If such connections do not exist, TriMet will provide and install such displays when stop improvements listed elsewhere in this document are made and power and network connections are made available. Where the displays are mounted and how they are integrated into stops will be coordinated with Gresham staff and its selected consultant team for the "*Gresham BRT Corridor and Stations Design and Development Project*" at the Gresham TC, and with Rockwood Rising staff at the Rockwood station.
- **Gresham TC - TriMet will**
 - a. Seek to identify improvements to the Gresham TC that can be included in the BRT project that improve the overall look and feel of the Transit Center and its surroundings.
 - b. Seek to identify improvements such as state of the art shelters and furnishings that may be beyond the scope of the BRT project, but would further enhance the transit center and its surroundings to denote that the Gresham TC is a key regional destination and gateway to Downtown Gresham. The goal for this work is to increase the level of understanding through the development of programmatic and conceptual

design elements, including the costs for non-BRT funded improvements, that enables the City of Gresham to better compete for non-Small Starts grant funding.

- c. TriMet will explore whether there are opportunities to coordinate station area improvements with the Blue Line Station Rehabilitation (BLSR) project refurbishment of the transit center. TriMet will seek to coordinate schedules for BLSR with other possible improvements to minimize potential negative impacts of construction to the surrounding areas and transit users.

Assuming TriMet takes on some of the Gresham TC design tasks that City of Gresham had intended to undertake with its "*Gresham BRT Corridor and Stations Design and Development Project*," the City of Gresham will use those freed-up resources to do basic conceptual designs for a "gateway" transit station at MHCC. The design level would be sufficient to identify a reasonable scope and cost estimate in order to be competitive to pursue grant funding.

After the basic scope and cost are developed, the partners will pursue various grant and other funding opportunities to make the improvements identified through this process.

- **Other Service Enhancements:** TriMet will remain flexible and responsive to the East Multnomah County Transportation Committee (EMCTC), Multnomah County, City of Gresham and others regarding Service Enhancement Plan (SEP) priorities and implementation. TriMet recognizes that priorities for SEP enhancements may change due to the change in terminus for MHCC as well as over time and will consult each year in advance of making Annual Service Plan decisions. As of the time of this MOU, SEP priorities outlined by the East Multnomah County Transportation Committee include:
 - Line 20 enhancements as addressed on page 2 of this MOU;
 - Explore re-routing Line 81 to follow the originally planned BRT route between the Gresham TC and MHCC and extend to serve the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park (TRIP), coupled with adequate frequency along Line 80; and
 - Enhance service along Line 87 to include more weekday coverage and frequency as well as weekend service.

Mid-term

- **Line 81 connections:** TriMet will work in consultation with MHCC, City of Gresham, City of Troutdale and Multnomah County to identify options that adjust service of Lines 80 and 81 as outlined above and re-routing of the current Line 81. TriMet will make every reasonable effort to implement enhancements prior to BRT service commencing in 2021, knowing that extension to the TRIP is priority. Any service changes are subject to review and approval by TriMet's Board of Directors consistent with the TriMet Code and Title VI equity analysis.
- **Stops and shelters:** In order to enhance the comfort and visibility of MHCC connections to the rest of the community and the region, MHCC and TriMet will coordinate with City of Gresham, Multnomah County, City of Troutdale, Port of Portland, EMCTC and Metro, to seek funding¹ for improved passenger facilities at MHCC campus stops in both

¹ Note that TriMet cannot directly apply for regional flexible MTIP funding due to prior commitments

directions, Gresham Transit Center, and Rockwood. The partners share the goal of completing this design and cost estimate to support a competitive grant application in time for funding that would go to construction by the opening of the BRT in 2021. TriMet, MHCC and the City of Gresham will work together to find funding and implement the design context-appropriate improvements developed in the near-term with features such as larger weather protection, real-time arrival information, safety enhancements and other stop enhancements that contribute to the comfort of riders and the quality of the location.

- **Service enhancements when BRT project opens for service:** TriMet will consult with MHCC, City of Gresham, Multnomah County, Metro and EMCTC on how to prioritize reallocated service hours made available by the replacement of Line 4-Division with BRT when the BRT begins service, including how best to continue improving access to MHCC for students. Any service changes are subject to review and approval by TriMet's Board of Directors consistent with the TriMet Code and Title VI equity analysis.
- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM):** MHCC will develop a TDM strategy to encourage more use of transit and other active modes by students, faculty and staff. TriMet will offer support and advice for development of TDM plans and strategies, and help with promoting transit to MHCC students. This assumes MHCC is able to receive regional funding for TDM coordination staff support or has some other staff capability to develop TDM efforts. TriMet will provide MHCC with a list of potential sources and timing of grants for such efforts.
- **Signage and Maps including access to MHCC:** TriMet will include information about connections to MHCC in relevant public-focused future BRT project materials, maps, press releases and community information.

Additional

- **Annual Service Plan Enhancements:** TriMet will continue to consult with MHCC and other partners in East Multnomah County in determining future Annual Service Plan service enhancements, especially during periods of peak demand.
- **Capital improvements:** Partners will work to implement additional transportation-related improvements that support place making and access improvements.
- **Career Training:** TriMet will partner with MHCC to create clear pathways for students into careers at TriMet. This may include collaboration on short-term trainings, internships, on-the-job trainings, new program development and/ or advisory board participation.
- **Gresham TC Garage** – TriMet will continue to coordinate with City of Gresham about opportunities that might involve a City of Gresham lease or other form of agreement related to use of the garage to support planned development in the area.
- **TriMet Site** – TriMet and Gresham will work to identify and design a potential site for transit vehicle maintenance and storage needs within Gresham to accommodate TriMet's needs for such a facility in the near-term if the site meets TriMet's operational needs. Any property transaction is subject to the approval of TriMet's Board of Directors.

In the spirit of cooperation, all partners hereby commit to continue cooperation, discussion, meeting, and allocation of resources to address the items noted herein.

**Tri-County Metropolitan
Transportation District of Oregon**

By


Bernie Bottomly
Executive Director

Approved as to form:

By


Deputy General Counsel

City of Gresham

By

Name:
Title:

Approved as to form:

By

Title:

Multnomah County

By

Name:
Title:

Approved as to form:

By

Title:

Mt. Hood Community College

By


Debra Derr
MHCC President


Approved as to form:

By


Title: *MHCC Board Chair*

Metro

By


Name: Martha Bennett
Title: Chief Operating Officer

Approved as to form:

By

Title:

