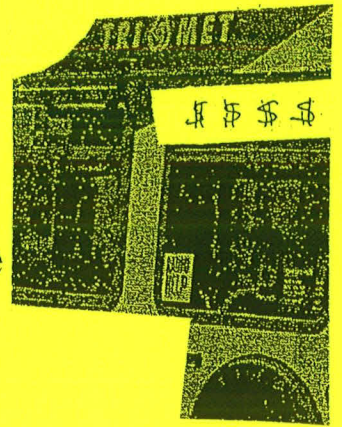


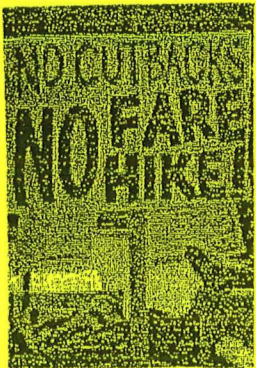
1,400 REASONS TO KEEP VOTER-OWNED ELECTIONS

Transit Riders Union presented 1,400 signatures on petitions to the TriMet Board (an unelected body) against fare hikes & service cuts. The board voted 6-1 to implement the cuts and fare hike, regardless!

It is currently 'illegal' for voters to vote to elect the TriMet board (TRU is preparing an initiative petition to change this). While keeping VOE for the city of Portland council races won't extend VOE to Metro elections or TriMet, it is important to keep it in place now – so low-income folks and others disenfranchised groups have a chance to penetrate the current Election Industry (esp. w/Citizens United).



BOYCOTT REEDVILLE CAFÉ TO ELECT THE TRIMET BOARD & STOP THE CUTS & FARE HIKES



Since we can't "vote" for the TriMet board, we can cast an 'economic' vote by boycotting the Reedville Café – which is owned by TriMet board president Rick Van Beveren. Van Beveren has voted for every fare hike and service cut in the past two years. TriMet Gen. Mgr. Neil MacFarland (who makes \$200,000 per year) says transit riders should 'be patient & wait' till the economy gets better for service cuts and fare hikes to (possibly) be rescinded.

VOTE YES ON TRIMET'S \$125,000,000 NOV. TAX MEASURE

Transit Riders Union believes that seniors and disabled riders should not be penalized due to TriMet's ongoing mismanagement practices. Vote yes for TriMet's \$125,000,000 Nov. election tax measure, and fund 150 new buses!

www.trimetriders.org

TRANSIT RIDERS UNION

BOYCOTT REEDVILLE CAFE

BY LEW CHURCH

Transit Riders Union, over the past year, has collected and presented the TriMet board of directors with 1,400 signatures on petitions against bus and MAX service cutbacks and against fare hikes. Lynn Lehrback, a Teamsters representative on the TriMet board dissented, but the board voted to disregard transit riders completely and cutback 60 bus routes, decrease MAX frequency, and implement two fare hikes. This at a time when Oregon's economy and unemployment rate are among the five worst states in the nation, and when workers and students alike need to be able to get to jobs, classes, job interviews, and doctor appointments.

TriMet's unelected board of directors (and staff) are deserting TriMet, in 2010, like rats deserting a sinking ship. Fred Hansen, TriMet's longtime, \$250,000 per year General Manager, quit this spring. Steve Banta, TriMet's Operations Director, after meeting with five organizers from Transit Riders Union, quit TriMet this year and moved to work for the Phoenix, Arizona, transit system.

Over half the unelected TriMet board has quit this year, as well. George Passadore, former regional president of Wells Fargo Bank, was the 13 year TriMet board president, and Passadore, following protest after protest against the so-called austerity budget cuts and fare hikes -- quit the board in May, 2010. Bob Williams, a TriMet board member known to transit activists as 'the Butcher of Fareless Square' (he proudly told transit riders that he pushed for gutting Fareless Square in 2008, and finally succeeded, in January, 2010, in gutting Fareless Square) -- quit,

the TriMet board in 2010 as soon as the cutbacks to Fareless Square were implemented.

The new TriMet board president, Rick Van Beveran, was the vice president of the board and has voted, over the past two years, for every fare increase and every bus and MAX service cut. Several bus lines have been eliminated altogether. Other buses have lost weekend service altogether. MAX frequency has been cut back even as TriMet keeps building more light rail lines. Van Beveran also owns the Reedville Cafe in Hillsboro, on the #57 bus line.

Due to TriMet's utter disregard for transit riders over the past two years, Transit Riders Union is organizing the Reedville Cafe Boycott to elect the TriMet Board. One of the main underlying problems with TriMet is that the board is appointed, in secret, by Oregon's governor, with zero transparency or input from transit riders or the community. Metro, according to Robert Liberty, an elected Metro councilor, has the power now, via ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) to take over TriMet. An initiative petition can also be used to place a ballot measure before voters in an Oregon election, calling on voters to approve requiring that the TriMet board be elected by the people. These are longterm projects of Transit Riders Union.

But the TriMet board continues, unabated, to cut services and raise fares. The time for activists and radicals at the grassroots level to take action is now, including supporting and spreading the word about the Reedville Cafe Boycott, as well as organizing a picketing campaign to hold TriMet accountable and have the

TriMet board elected.

Transit Riders Union has already held one picket at Portland Business Alliance in downtown Portland, and is planning more pickets, both at PBA and at the Reedville Cafe (which is easily accessible via MAX and the #57 bus). Transit Riders Union meets Saturdays at Portland State at 12 noon, at Chit Chat Cafe, 1906 SW Sixth, and can be reached at www.trimetriders.org or 503-222-2974.

TriMet's overall argument about what activists call TriMet's "transit shock doctrine" is that they have no money to keep funding buses, MAX frequency, Fareless Square, or to keep fares economical. Yet TriMet has a \$2.5 billion budget, including capital projects. A second, strawman argument TriMet uses is that federal funding guidelines support light rail funding at the expense of bus funding -- and buses tend to be used by the poor, homeless, workers, students, seniors, disabled folks, etc. This is a specious argument in that transit activists in Los Angeles and San Francisco -- via three federal court suits and injunctions -- have been able to: (a) halt a fare hike with 10 minutes to go in LA, (b) reverse \$70,000,000 in funds set for light rail and redirect to bus funding in SF, and (c) halt light rail funding for 5 years in LA and require the MTA there to purchase 500 buses.

Transit Riders Union, in this case, is not calling for a boycott like Dr. King's Montgomery bus boycott. Many unemployed and low-income Oregonians, and many bus riders, need to use the bus to get to work and to the store. However, the targeted, specific Reedville Cafe Boycott to Elect the TriMet Board is a strategic

opportunity to force TriMet to live up to their marketing image of being liberal and progressive. It is unacceptable, for example, that the driver who ran over five people, killing two women pedestrians in their 20s, on the #9 bus downtown, still works for TriMet. For a safe and economical transit system, please support the Reedville Cafe Boycott!

Moreover, transit organizers note that when Tom Hughes, the Oregonian- and Tribune- anointed candidate for Metro president in the upcoming November runoff election against former 1,000 Friends of Oregon director Bob Stacey, he'd the Hughes Primary Election Victory Party -- it was held at the Reedville Cafe in Hillsboro. Not only does Hughes support the CRC bridge, while Stacey opposes CRC, but Hughes has been asked whether he supports having the TriMet board elected by the people, and Hughes says "no." Hughes, like Reedville Cafe owner and current TriMet board president Rick Van Beveran, favors keeping the TriMet board unelected -- and unaccountable.

For something as important as transit, ecology, fighting global warming, preserving air quality, stopping dependence on foreign oil and wars for foreign oil -- it is time to put a little democracy into the TriMet power structure. Even the East Multnomah County Soil & Water Conservation District is an elected body. It is time to take our transit back -- Boycott Reedville Cafe!

[Lew Church is Treasurer of Transit Riders Union].

TAKE OUR TRANSIT BACK!

TRANSIT RIDERS UNION

**PICKET AND PROTEST
PORTLAND BUSINESS ALLIANCE**

*******ELECT THE TRIMET BOARD!!!**

Around the world



DIMITRI MESSINIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A protester confronts riot police outside parliament during a rally Thursday in central Athens. Unions staged their sixth general strike this year - halting public transportation and services, stopping ferry departures and closing schools, newspapers, courts and public hospitals.

**TRANSIT
RIDERS
UNION**

“Capitalism is above the law”

■ Robt. Zimmerman



www.trimetriders.org

503-222-2974

Accomplishments:

1. Collected & presented 1,400 transit rider signatures on petitions against cuts/fare hikes to TriMet board
2. Five TRU organizers met with TriMet Operations Mgr. Steve Banta
3. TRU met with Metro elected official Robt. Liberty 2x re Metro taking over TriMet
4. TRU organizers at 30 TriMet board meetings in past 2 years
5. Organized picket of Portland Business Alliance (PBA pushed to gut Fareless Square)

BOYCOTT REEDVILLE CAFÉ TO ELECT THE TRIMET BOARD

6. Called on TriMet board to rename Fareless Rail Zone as Oscar Grant Zone
7. Met with Oregonian Editorial Board against TriMet service cuts

Los Angeles

Officer convicted of lesser charge in death

A white former transit officer was convicted of involuntary manslaughter Thursday in the shooting death of an unarmed African American man on an Oakland train platform in a 2009 encounter that set off days of rioting in the city.

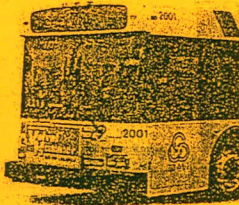
Prosecutors had hoped Johannes Mehserle would be convicted of murder in the death of 22-year-old Oscar Grant, who was shot as he lay face down.

TRIMET'S PUPPET BOARD OF DIRECTORS

When TRU organizers met with outgoing Ops Mgr Steve Banta (2010), Banta noted the appointed TriMet board had NEVER worked with staff to look for alternate funding sources. TRU is doing this.

TriMet has, per WWeek, a \$2.5 billion budget, counting capital projects. The 2010 fare hike will only raise \$1.5 million of an alleged \$27 million shortfall. That \$\$\$ can be found elsewhere

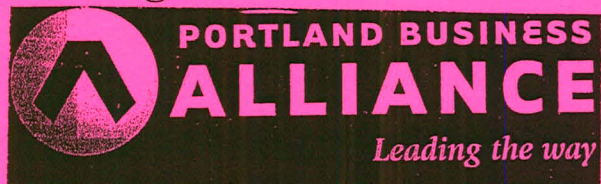
■ Calling all lawyers. Portland's Transit Riders Union (trimeers.org) is in the market for an attorney to help it seek court injunction that would halt the elimination of Fareless Square for buses starting Jan. 3. Meantime, the transit advocacy group plans to protest at 9 am on Wednesday, Dec. 30, at 200 SW Market St., outside the Portland Business Alliance, which backed the change to rail-only Fareless Square.



Cutting bus service and MA frequency (while building more light rail) guts a transit system. In LA and SF, transit activists have won a fare hike halt (with 10 minutes to go) via a court injunction, and stopped rail construction for five years & got MTA in LA to buy 500 buses via a 2nd court injunction.

MORE PICKETS AT PORTLAND BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Bernie Bottomly, VP of the PBA, pushed TriMet for years to gut Fareless Square. TRU picketed PBA and will do so again.

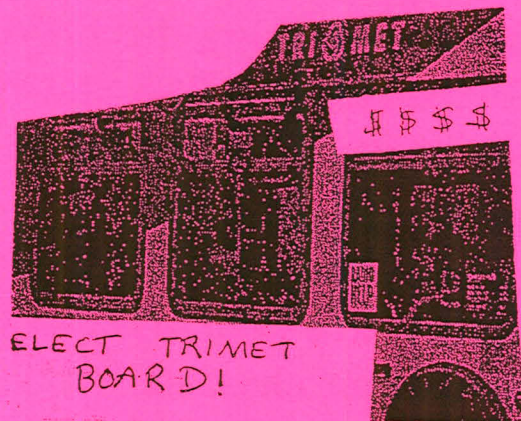


As with pushing for sit-lie (to marginalize and criminalize the homeless) PBA and the Oregonian want downtown PDX to be a tourist mecca, with the working poor & others 'out of sight & out of mind.' TRU rejects this!

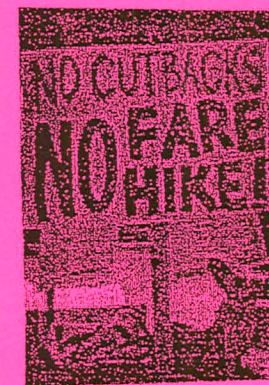


Transit Riders Union Demands:

1. Stop the Sept. 2010 fare increase
2. Stop the bus route Sept. 2010 service cuts
3. Elect the TriMet Board
4. Revive Owl service



TRANSIT RIDERS UNION



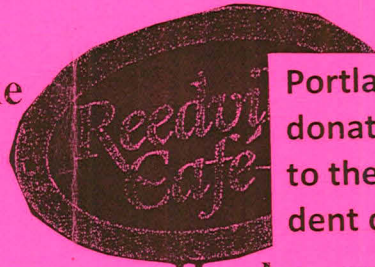
“Power concedes nothing without a demand.”
--Frederick Douglass

Meetings:

TRU meets Saturdays at
12 noon at PSU Chit Chat
Café, 1906 SW Sixth

www.trimetriders.org
503-222-2974

BOYCOTT REEDVILLE CAFE



We can urge Metro to take over TriMet (Metro is an elected body) or put a measure on Oregon's ballot requiring TriMet's board to be elected by the people.

For now, TriMet board president Steve Van Beveren owns the Reedville Café & has voted for every service cut & every fare increase in past two years.

Reedville Café was site of the May primary election victory party of conservative Metro president candidate Tom Hughes—who is endorsed by Oregonian & Tribune.

Portland Business Alliance donated \$5,000 in July, 2010 to the pro-CRC Metro president candidate Tom Hughes.

Hughes supports the CRC and opposes (as does Van Beveren) having the TriMet Board elected. Bob Stacey, the progressive candidate for Metro president, opposes the CRC. Hughes & Stacey face each other in the November election.

Since bus riders need transit to job-hunt, get to work, school, the doctor, etc., a Dr. King-style bus boycott won't work in the worst recession since the 1930s.

By boycotting the Reedville Café, however, we are saying "no" to TriMet's fare hikes, service cuts and lack of democracy and transparency.

INBOX

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR TRIMET

The Transit Riders Union opposes the proposed 5-cent fare hike by TriMet [see "End of the Line," WW, Feb. 17, 2010], as well as the cuts to over 60 bus routes. As the TriMet board is unelected (but appointed by Oregon's governor), this is the third proposed cut-backs to bus service—with zero accountability to transit riders and the community alike.

The TriMet board is appointed in secret, by Oregon's governor. A 2010 appointment to the TriMet board is Steve Clark, Portland Tribune president. The Tribune has endorsed Tom Hughes for Metro president. It is time to take our transit back!

Transit Riders Union will work for an immediate halt to this "transit shock doctrine," as well as more long-term funding and democracy solutions. Stop the cuts and elect the TriMet board!

PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION REQUEST
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM

5

Council Meeting Date: 10-13-10

Today's Date 9-27-10

Name Lew Church

AUDITOR 09/27/10 AM 11:43

Address PO Box 40011, Portland, Oregon

Telephone 503-222-2974 Email lewchurch@gmail.com

Reason for the request:

ACTIVISM & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Lew Church
(signed)

- Give your request to the Council Clerk's office by Thursday at 5:00 pm to sign up for the following Wednesday Meeting. Holiday deadline schedule is Wednesday at 5:00 pm. (See contact information below.)
- You will be placed on the Wednesday Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are the first item on the Agenda and are taken promptly at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Communications may be scheduled. Individuals must schedule their own Communication.
- You will have 3 minutes to speak and may also submit written testimony before or at the meeting.

Thank you for being an active participant in your City government.

Contact Information:
Karla Moore-Love, City Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4086 Fax (503) 823-4571
email: kmoore-love@ci.portland.or.us

Sue Parsons, Council Clerk Assistant
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4085 Fax (503) 823-4571
email: sparsons@ci.portland.or.us

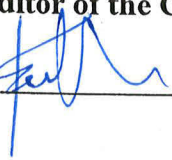
Request of Lew Church to address Council regarding activism and social justice
(Communication)

OCT 13 2010

PLACED ON FILE

Filed OCT 08 2010

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  _____

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		