



City of Portland, Oregon - Portland Permitting & Development

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Briefing

DISCUSSION MEMO

Date: May 28, 2025
To: Portland Design Commission
From: Tim Heron, Design / Historic Review Team
503-823-7726, tim.heron@portlandoregon.gov
Re: June 5, 2025 BRIEFING – TriMet Light Rail Substation Replacements in the Central City

Attached are the 5/23/25 TriMet Cover letter and Presentation from Joe Recker and Thomas Walther, TriMet Planning Staff, as well as other supporting documents, regarding the upcoming [June 5, 2025 Design Commission BRIEFING – TriMet Light Rail Substation Replacements in the Central City](#).

TriMet is seeking Design Advice from the Portland Design Commission to add the new substations in Central City as standard improvements in the ROW and include them in the *Guide to Standard Light Rail And Bus Rapid Transit Improvements in Public Streets*. Links below.

New substations in the design or historic overlays (or any ROW improvements that are not currently “standard improvements in the ROW” or adopted by the PBOT City Engineer) will trigger Land Use Design Review or Historic Review. In order to avoid this lengthy and duplicative process for these types of objects in the ROW, TriMet/ PBOT seek advice from the Portland Design Commission to exempt them from the Land Use process by making them new standard improvements in the ROW.

Guide to Standard Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit Improvement in Public Streets.

In 2017, The Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), in association with Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet), developed this Guide to Standard Light Rail (LRT) Improvements in Public Streets as the basis for adoption of LRT improvements in the public streets of the City of Portland. In 2022 and 2023, TriMet and PBOT brought the Bus Rapid Transit project (BRT) before the Portland Design Commission for advice on new non-standard improvements in the ROW for the Bus Rapid Transit stations. Following those Briefings, the changes were updated into the current 2023 version of the guide.

Please contact me with any questions.

Att:

- *TriMet - Banfield Substation_PRESENTATION 5.23.2025*
- [TriMet 2023 GUIDE TO STANDARD LIGHT RAIL AND BUS RAPID TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS IN PUBLIC STREETS](#)