



Design Commission Briefing

SUMMARY MEMO

Date: June 16, 2025
To: Ben Baldwin, TriMet, baldwinb@trimet.org
From: Tim Heron, Design / Historic Review Team
503-823-7726, tim.heron@portlandoregon.gov
Re: May 15, 2025 BRIEFING – TriMet Next Generation Bus Shelter Family

This summary memo is regarding the May 15, 2025 Briefing – TriMet Next Generation Bus Shelter Family. All documents may be found here [May 15, 2025, Briefing to the Design Commission on the Next Generation Bus Shelter Family](#) and includes presentation slides, Staff Memo and Zoom Webinar recording.

Commissioners in attendance on May 15, 2025: Brian McCarter, Tina Bue, Sarah Vaz, Joe Swank, Thomas Eldridge. *Absent:* Zari Santner, Chandra Robinson.

New shelters 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. TriMet and PBOT seek design advice from the Portland Design Commission to become new standard improvements in the ROW and therefore exempt from the Land Use process as otherwise non-standard improvements in the ROW.

Design Commission Summary of Advice

- Commissioners were very impressed and excited about the new shelters and future flexibility built into the design.
- Commissioners also appreciated the sourcing from a local manufacturing company and use of high-quality materials.
- Commissioners noted the integrated roof system that conceals batteries and wiring, integrated LED lighting, and low-profile solar panels (1”-1.5” thick) is well considered.
 - Attention to a well-sealed enclosure to ensure pressure washing protection and long-term vandal proofing.
- Commission fully supported the integration of public art into the interchangeable paneling, whether glass or polycarbonate.
- Two Commissioners were concerned, but were then satisfied with additional confirmation from PBOT that siting criteria like the Pedestrian Design Guide, the Inter-Governmental Agreements with TriMet, ADA Guidance, and PBOT traffic sightline studies are considered when locating any new bus stop locations, including reconsideration of existing stops to be replaced at the same locations

- Commissioners also noted that the increased pavilion overhang of the new bus shelters relating to drip edges and water in the pedestrian zone should be evaluated.
- Two Commissioners also asked and were pleased with TriMet's efforts and working with Citizens for Accessible Transit (CAT) to incorporate the most appropriate bench design for shelters that will include benches.
- The Design Commission looks forward to the prototype installation of these Next Generation Bus Shelters and TriMet's return visit to update on their performance, and changes need to the standards, and relaunch of over 1,000 new bus shelters across the City (inside and outside of d-overlay zones).