

## **Public Comment**

Subject: TriMet 2026 budget

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Message Body:

Re: TriMet 2026 budget

TriMet is out of control.

Ridership is way down:

TriMet fixed route ridership peaked in FY 2012, years before Covid, at 102,238,070 boarding rides (a). FY 2024 saw ~62,558,400, or about 38.8% fewer rides (b). The FY 2026 budget projects ~67,077,800 (b), still about 34.4% fewer rides than in FY 2012.

Costs are rising much faster than inflation:

The 2012 budget was for \$934,285,066 (c) while the 2026 budget calls for \$1,944,615,375 (d), an increase of over 108%. CPI-W, the inflation measure used by TriMet, went from 220.024 in March 2011 (e) to 313.250 in March 2025 (f), or a little over 42%.

How many TriMet executive managers does it take to...?

The 2012 budget showed 10 top executives with annual salaries exceeding \$150,000, or about \$213,600 in current dollars. The 2026 approved budget provides for 26 executive managers above that threshold.

Zombie manager?

With great fanfare and the requisite baseball caps, TriMet managers presented "Vision 2030" in October 2023. The idea was for TriMet to reach 120 million rides by 2030. Numbers are falling well short and ridership may plateau within the next year or two. Computer searches show "Vision 2030" appearing 20 times in the 2025 adopted budget but only once in 2026's: \$167.761 for Program Manager, Senior, Vision 2030 on page 322. General Manager DeSue said that there would be "off ramps" if things weren't working out. Since ridership is not meeting targets, did management take an "off ramp" but forget to eliminate the position?

- (a) TriMet Service and Ridership Information, 10/30/2024, page 1/6:  
<https://trimet.org/about/pdf/trimetridership.pdf>
- (b) TriMet FY 2026 approved budget, page 14
- (c) TriMet FY 2014 adopted budget, page Requirements-4
- (d) TriMet FY 2026 approved budget, page 71
- (e) CPI For Urban Wage Earners And Clerical Workers, <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/STATS/cpiw.html>
- (f) Consumer Price Index - March 2025, page 4, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/cpi>.