



TriMet Board of Directors  
 1800 SW First Ave, Ste 300  
 Portland, OR 97201

RE: Support for MAX Station Closures

Dear TriMet Board of Directors,

On behalf of Westside Economic Alliance (WEA), I am writing to express our support for the closure of the four MAX stations identified by TriMet staff in downtown Portland. The WEA Transportation Committee had the opportunity to discuss this topic on two occasions. This discussion led the Transportation Committee to conclude that the proposed station closures would have quantifiable benefits to the overall operation of the regional transit system. This action will result in a transit travel time savings of 14% through downtown Portland. This translates into real time savings for the thousands of transit riders passing through downtown. As well, the increased transit system reliability and improved operations that will result benefits the entire region.

Travel time is a critical decision factor for choosing to ride transit over a single occupancy automobile. It is our understanding that it currently takes 22 minutes for a MAX light rail train to travel between the Goose Hollow Station and the Lloyd Center Station – a distance of 3 miles. Compare this to the 11-minute MAX travel time from the Lloyd Center Station to the Gateway Station – a distance of 5 miles and the 9-minute travel time over the same distance from the Sunset Transit Center to the Goose Hollow Station. It's clear that the system will benefit from the proposed steps to improve travel time through downtown.

Our support for the proposed station closures in downtown Portland is based on the WEA's strong support for system improvements that will attract more transit riders. These improvements will be incremental but will ultimately result in significant operational benefits to the overall transit system. While an estimated 2-minute travel time savings does not sound like a large timesaver on the surface, multiply that savings by the thousands of transit riders and there will be significant system benefits.

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TriMet Board of Directors

May 15, 2019

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We greatly appreciate your leadership in finding solutions that will lead to an overall improvement to the regional transit system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Angelo', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Frank Angelo, Chair

WEA Transportation Committee

cc: Doug Kelsey, TriMet General Manager