



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Date: August 3, 2020

To: Board of Education

From: Courtney Westling, Director of Government Relations
Mary Kane, Senior Legal Counsel

Subject: TriMet Student Passes for '20-21 School Year

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, PPS has had an agreement with TriMet to provide student transit passes to the district's high school students in lieu of traditional yellow bus service.

Historically, PPS has carried a \$2.9M contract with TriMet, of which the district has been responsible for \$1,933,333. With COVID-19, virtual learning, and the requisite uncertainty, TriMet has agree to some flexibility for the program for the 2020-2021 academic year.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

With in-class instruction less than 50% for at least the first quarter of the school year, PPS will participate in a pay-by-tap program effective September 1, 2020. The district will make an initial deposit of \$966,666, which will cover taps incurred by PPS students through the 2020-2021 academic year. Taps will be charged at \$1.25 per tap accounting toward the \$966,666 deposit. TriMet will calculate taps each academic quarter. At the end of the final academic quarter, if actual tap usage exceeds \$966,666, TriMet will invoice PPS for additional taps at \$1.25 per tap.

If, during the course of the academic year, in-person instruction resumes at or above 50% of normal in-school instruction, the original student pass contract terms will be reinstated prorated for the second, third, and/or fourth quarter(s) at \$483,333 per qualifying quarter (total original contract cost of \$1,933,333 divided by four quarters).

In addition to the \$966,666 deposit, PPS will pay TriMet \$12,750 for 15,000 transit cards for distribution to students during registration.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

We believe that renewing the IGA provides consistency and will prevent any delays when we are able to open schools to students again. It also provides necessary support to students who continue to rely on schools for nutrition and other services.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of the TriMet Youth Pass program is \$2.9 million annually, with PPS historically paying \$1,933,333 and TriMet “in-kinding” the additional \$966,666. PPS has a waiver with the Oregon Department of Education that allows the district to purchase transit passes rather than yellow bus services at a 70% district reimbursement. Last year, for example, the reimbursement to PPS was approximately \$1,353,333.

For the 2020-21 school year, PPS will be responsible for \$966,666, a 50% discount from the usual payment to reflect the uncertainty of in-person school due to the pandemic. The state reimbursement is estimated to be \$676,666.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This spring, TriMet proposed a change to the type of card students used for transit. Rather than embed the HOP pass in student ID cards, they wondered if PPS would be open to using "non-personalized HOP cards" (a separate card than their student ID that they could keep year after year).

After outreach to the District Student Council, it was clear that students preferred having just one card that combined the HOP pass with their student ID card.

Other than that, because this is an annual renewal, there was no additional student outreach.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / EVALUATION

The transit passes are valid from September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends board approval of this IGA.

ATTACHMENTS

- Intergovernmental Agreement