



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Date: August 9, 2022

To: Board of Education

From: Courtney Westling, Director of Government Relations
Kate Wilkinson, Assistant General Counsel

Subject: TriMet Student Passes for '22-23 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. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 on the '20-21 school year, we adjusted the IGA that year to allow for some flexibility for the program since our students were virtual for the majority of that school year. We reverted back to the traditional IGA for the '21-22 school year since we were back to in-person learning.

The 2022-23 academic year will be a full in-person school year, so this IGA reflects that. The District is responsible for the \$1,933,333 program cost plus \$45,000 for the 15,000 initial HOP cards (separate from the 2,000 initial cards that TriMet covers). Additionally, in order to accommodate any lost or stolen cards, the IGA includes an additional up to \$9,000 to cover the cost of replacement cards. The total cost to PPS is up to **\$1,987,333**.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

Without this agreement, PPS would have to fund the entire \$2.9 million to run the program or make the choice to eliminate it altogether or revert to yellow bus service, which would not only be more costly for the district, but would not offer the same level of flexibility as TriMet.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

The direct benefits of providing this service to students are immediate and long-term. The partnership with Tri-Met directly supports the first pillar of the PPS [Climate Crisis Response Policy](#) (CCRP): Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs. Specifically, this partnership advances Goal 1.4 to minimize greenhouse gas emissions from student and staff transportation. Further, a central goal of this policy is to promote racial equity and climate justice. Providing Tri-Met passes allows students who do not have regular access to their own vehicle or consistent transportation to have greater access to pursue educational and career opportunities that may be a barrier to access otherwise. Through supporting a culture of public transit, the PPS

community can help to reduce single occupancy vehicles on the roadways, reducing air pollution from cars that disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable communities.

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. For the '21-22 school year, for example, the reimbursement to PPS was approximately \$1,353,333.

This year, the IGA includes an additional \$45,000 to cover the cost of the initial 15,000 Hop cards, plus \$9,000 to accommodate the cost of additional cards in the case of loss or theft. The total cost to PPS is \$1,987,333.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Because this is an annual renewal, there has been no student outreach.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / EVALUATION

The transit passes are valid from August 30, 2022 through June 25, 2023.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends board approval of this IGA.

ATTACHMENTS

- Intergovernmental Agreement