

TriMet service cuts

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system enough to make it really look bad." He asked why TriMet's fares pay for only 20 percent of their operations. Joseph replied that this is typical of U.S. transit agencies in general, and that all are undergoing the same sort of financial difficulties.

Joseph mentioned that one proposal on the table is to charge \$1 fares in what is now Fareless Square. One resident responded, "How will you enforce that when you can't enforce your fares now?" Joseph said the agency planned to add more fare inspectors on the fringes of the free zone.

He conceded that the agency loses an estimated \$800,000 annually on uncollected fares. He also said that changing the rules will be "very difficult" because "Fareless Square has become a Portland icon."

Board members Duane Hunting, Aloha Wyse and others suggested going in another direction by making the entire system free. Joseph replied that this

would mean a major increase in transit subsidies. "Four years ago we asked the state legislature for permission to increase the payroll tax by .1 percent," he said. "It was very difficult."

Hunting and Seifert suggested instituting a shuttle system utilizing fuel-efficient mini-buses. Joseph said that such systems are in place now at Lewis and Clark College and the Forest Heights development in Northwest Portland.

"Many times people get hung up trying to solve old problems with old ideas," Hunting said.

In answer to a question by Glenn Bridger, Joseph said TriMet would probably not restore any lines cut even if economic conditions improved and funding was available. "It doesn't make sense to restore low-performing routes," he said.

The same night, people at a South Portland Neighborhood Association meeting expressed similar concerns about service cuts to the Line #43 Taylors Ferry bus service.

THE COUNTRY STORE

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tag sale they offer every two weeks. Sell clothes on consignment for 40 percent of the asking price or take an in-store credit at 50 percent. "I always come here first if my little boy needs something," said Cydne Casper who lives in Multnomah Village. "Everyone who hasn't looked at resale shops for their kids should start." Katelyn's Closet is located in Multnomah Village, 7429 SW Capitol Hwy, (503) 293-4333, www.katelynscloset.com

Second to None

Featured in Portland Best Places for 2008 and 2009, Second to None sells children's clothes from sizes birth to children's 16. "We have quality, fairly priced clothing, and we love our customers and know all the kids," said owner Indy Hill who lives in Multnomah Village.

"We've been in this location 12 years. I've worked here for seven years and owned the store for five."

The large storefront looked inviting with a children's play area, large dressing rooms, and a Hey Diddle Diddle, The Cat and the Fiddle window display. A shelf of DVDs stood next to the rack of children's costumes. The inventory includes toys, games, shoes and a 50 percent off rack. Sell items for 40 percent of the asking price for cash, or up to 50 percent for store credit.

Still, business hasn't always been good, like the time a car drove through the front window. "It happened at 10:30 a.m.," Hill said. "Fortunately no children were here." Amazingly, two years later insurance hasn't settled the claims. "It's our customers who kept us in business after the car wreck." Second to None is located at 6308 SW Capitol Hwy, Hillsdale Shopping Center, (503) 244-0071.

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