

## Public Hearing Notice

Due to the weak economy, TriMet is facing a budget shortfall that requires a 5 percent cut in programs and services agency wide. In February, we proposed service cuts for buses and MAX that included the discontinuation of 12 low-ridership bus lines. After reviewing more than 1,500 public comments and further analysis of ridership data, nearby service and school/job access, we revised our proposal.

### Summary

TriMet proposes the following service cuts effective September 2009:

- **5 bus lines would be discontinued:** 41-Tacoma, 74-Lloyd District/Southeast, 86-Alderwood, 153-South End Rd Loop and 157-Happy Valley.
- **20 bus lines would have major changes to route, frequency and/or hours of operation:** 1-Vermont, 15-Belmont, 18-Hillside, 19-Woodstock, 27-Market/Main, 31-Estacada, 33-Fremont, 34-River Rd, 37-Lake Grove, 55-Hamilton, 58-Canyon Rd, 59-Walker/Park Way, 60-Leahy Rd, 63-Washington Park, 70-12th Ave, 85-Swan Island, 88-Hart/198th Ave, 152-Milwaukie, 156-Mather Rd and Cedar Mill Shuttle.
- **15 bus lines would have some or all weekend service discontinued:** 1-Vermont, 10-Harold, 17-NW 21st Ave/St Helens Rd, 33-Fremont, 34-River Rd, 39-Lewis & Clark, 43-Taylor's Ferry Rd, 47-Baseline/Evergreen, 48-Cornell, 51-Vista, 59-Walker/Park Way, 63-Washington Park, 67-Jenkins/158th Ave, 89-Tanasbourne and 156-Mather Rd.
- **MAX and various other bus lines would have reductions in route, frequency and/or hours of operation.**

Read the complete service cut proposal at [trimet.org](http://trimet.org).

### How to contact us

Email: [comments@trimet.org](mailto:comments@trimet.org)

Comment line: 503-962-5806

Fax: 503-962-6469

Mail: TriMet-MK2, 4012 SE 17th Ave., Portland, OR 97202

TTY: 503-238-5811 (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays)

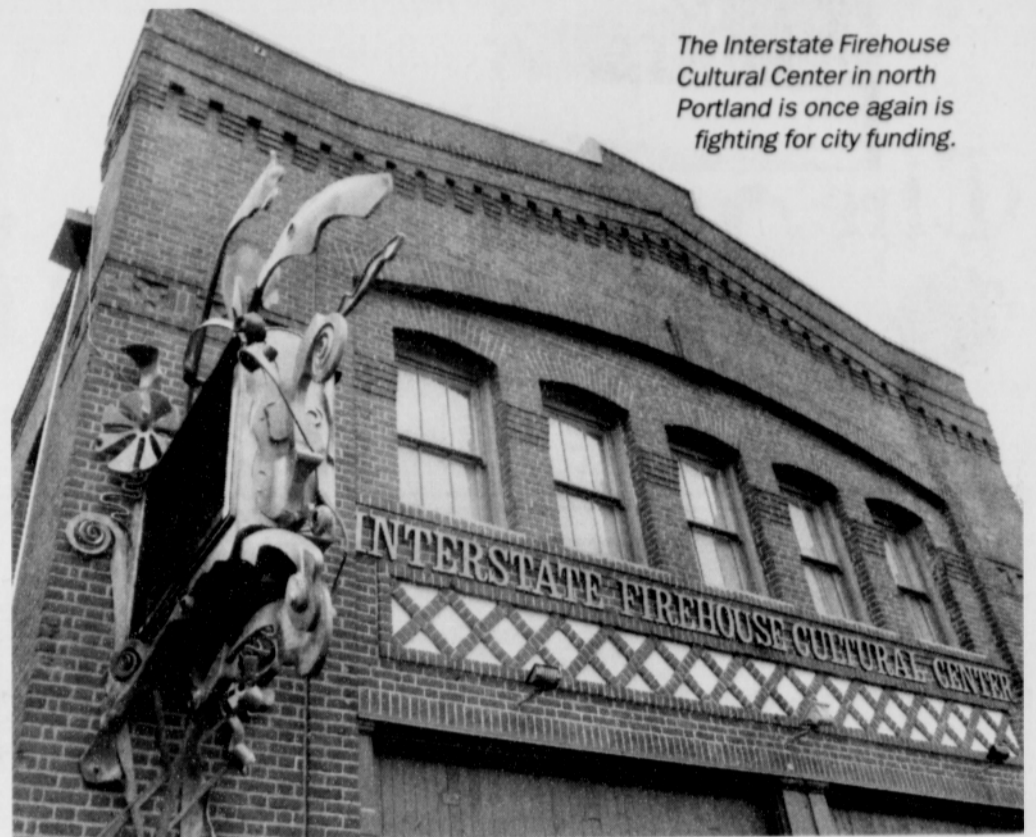
Comments must be received by 5 p.m., Friday, April 10, 2009.

### Public hearings

Monday, April 6, 2009, 4-7 p.m.	Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 4-7 p.m.	Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 4-7 p.m.
Wilson High School Cafeteria 1151 SW Vermont Portland, OR 97219	Portland Building Auditorium, Second Floor 1120 SW 5th Ave. Portland, OR 97204	Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Training Center 12700 SE 82nd Ave. Clackamas, OR 97015

If you require a sign-language interpreter or other communication aids, please call 503-802-8200 (select option 4) or TTY 503-802-8058 (7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays) at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.

TRIMET



The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center in north Portland is once again fighting for city funding.

## IFCC Frets over Budget

### Director says arts diversity at stake

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Adrienne Flagg, the creative director for the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, is worried that the north Portland art center will become "just a venue," and will be unable to fund any of its unique multicultural programs.

Since the IFCC was founded in 1982 by Charles Jordan, Portland's first African American city commissioner, it has been working to foster diversity in the arts in Portland. It has helped immigrant and minority artists just starting out get their foot in the door with mentoring programs, for example.

The center is a regular sponsor of multicultural theatrical performances, dance studio, and gallery exhibitions. Just recently the IFCC hosted an exhibition called "Due North," which featured the visual works of over 50 artists based in north and northeast Portland.

"IFCC supports diversity on a daily basis," said Flagg.

The center has relied heavily on the city to supplement its budget, but with city coffers severely strained and with most city bureaus looking at 5 to 10 percent cuts, the arts center's operations may face a dramatic reduction if it can't muster enough support from the City Council.

Since the IFCC was founded, the city has helped keep it afloat by providing it a 100-year-old firehouse and a steady stream of subsidies, with the understanding that the arts center would have to eventually stand on its own.

According to Flagg, the center received \$100,000 annually for its first 15 years to support its programs. In two other years, proposals for a complete cut to funding the center were eventually put back in, said Flagg.

Since 2005, IFCC has received \$80,000 from city funds that they must match.

However, early last month Flagg said she got word from her liaison with Portland Parks and Recreation, which has usually overseen the IFCC's bud-

get, that the \$80,000 was being cut.

"We were not prepared for that at all," said Flagg, who explained that the money makes up about a third of its budget and the cut would have hamstrung the center.

However, Flagg said that supporters quickly rallied.

"We've been in letter writing mode," she said.

Commissioner Nick Fish, who oversees the parks budget, said he included \$72,000 in funding for IFCC all along.

"I'm a big supporter of the IFCC," said Fish. However, he noted that eventually IFCC will have to become self-sufficient and not rely on the city for cash.

Mayor Sam Adams, who helped keep the center from closing its doors as a city commissioner in 2005, said that he has funding for the IFCC in his budget as well because of the unique role it plays in Portland's art scene.

However, every service the city provides is starting down deep cuts, and funding for the IFCC could be gutted before the full council.

"This year we have really deep cuts," said Adams.

In May, the city council will hear public testimony on the proposed city budget.

Flagg plans to be there along with supporters, but is hoping she'll be there to thank the council for their support, not to pressure them to restore funding.

## Widow's Tobacco Award Upheld

continued from Front

are about 97 times greater. A state court previously cut the compensatory award to \$521,000.

The value of the award has climbed to more than \$145 million because of accrued interest, the company said. Sixty percent of it would go to an Oregon crime victims fund, although the company has said it might continue to contest the portion owed the state.

The Oregon high court made its first decision in 2002, refusing to hear an appeal from Philip Morris.

Then the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the judgment of nearly \$80 million, saying in another case that damages generally should be held to no more than nine times actual economic damages. It declined, however, to make that a firm rule.

Next, the Oregon Supreme Court upheld the punitive damages, citing "extraordinarily reprehensible" conduct by Philip Morris officials.

Then came the U.S. Supreme Court's second take on the case. In 2007, the court said in a 5-4 decision that jurors may punish a defendant only for harm done to someone who is suing, not other smokers who could make similar claims.

The state court was told to reconsider the award in the context of instructions for the trial jury that Philip Morris proposed and the trial judge rejected.

In January, the Oregon court said there were other defects in the instructions that violated Oregon law, and supported the trial judge's decision not to give the proposed instructions to the jury.

The case is Philip Morris USA v. Williams, 07-1216.

## Grocery was Maxey's

The grocery former Sen. Avel Gordly frequented as a child was "Maxey's". The name was misspelled in the story "Gang War Front Lines" in our March 25 edition. The Portland Observer regrets the error.

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