

# TriMet Budget Battle

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spending on transit police is the wrong priority when TriMet is not sufficiently prioritizing the needs of low-income riders.

“We want to see that funding go toward increasing service and improving accessibility,” he says. “Safety doesn’t just mean the presence of more police officers... Safety has a different definition when you’re a low income person, or a person of color, who is used to being harassed by police officers.”

OPAL wants TriMet to support its low-income fare program proposal, which also is estimated to cost about \$11 million.

The Low Income Fare Equity (LIFE) program would be available to anyone whose income is below 200 percent of the Feder-

al Poverty Line, and would offer monthly passes at the Honored Citizen rate of \$28.

“Transportation is a lifeline, and just because people are unable to afford that \$2.50 doesn’t mean that they don’t deserve to go to the doctor, or that they don’t deserve to get to their job,” Fleek says. “The most common instance is when a person has to make a choice between getting on a train and spending the \$2.50 to try and get to the grocery store, or spending that \$2.50 on extra groceries.”

Alstadt says that TriMet is attempting to implement a low-income fare system, and that there are currently services available to help those in need, such as the Access Transit program serving nonprofits and community groups with reduced cost fares.



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### MONDAY - FRIDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.  
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3 A.M. - 7 A.M.  
TOM JOYNER

7 A.M. - 10 A.M.  
TONI TERRELL

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
REV. AL SHARPTON  
(KEEPING IT REAL)

1 P.M. - 3 P.M.  
KENNY SMOOV

3 P.M. - 7 P.M.  
D.L. HUGHLEY

7 P.M. - 9 P.M.  
PAPA SMURF

9 P.M. - 12 Midnight  
MIKE SHANNON

### SUNDAY

12 Midnight - 3 A.M.  
MIKE SHANNON

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6 A.M. - 12 NOON  
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