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'City of Roses'

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Moses Williams was a highly decorated Buffalo Soldier in the U.S. Army.

Veteran's Day Salute

Buffalo Soldier is buried at Fort Vancouver

Moses Williams (Oct. 10, 1845 – Aug. 23, 1899) was a Buffalo Soldier in the United States Army and a recipient of America's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for actions in the Indian Wars of the western United States.

Williams joined the newly formed 9th Cavalry in October 1866. By Aug. 16, 1881, he was serving in Company I of the 9th Cavalry Regiment when he participated in the Battle of Cuchillo Negro Creek in the Black Range Mountains of New Mexico. For his actions during the fight, Williams was awarded the Medal of Honor 15 years later. His lieutenant, George Ritter Burnett and private Augustus Walley also received the Medal of Honor for their actions in

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TRIMET

TriMet fare inspectors enforce rules for boarding light rail trains and buses and increase the presence of security on board. But some rider advocates are concerned over plans to hire nine new fare inspectors, saying that will increase unjust stops against poor people and people of color.

TriMet Defends Added Security

Others see fare inspectors as part of the problem

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

When TriMet recently announced plans to hire nine more fare inspectors, some activists claimed the move unfairly discriminates against poor people and people of color.

Gabriela Saldana Lopez of Bus Riders Unite, a project of OPAL Environmental Justice, said with increased fare enforcement, TriMet is “spending a lot of money to further criminalize folks.”

Lopez said she believes the public transit agency should lower its fares and even have a fareless system. Last year, Bus Riders Unite played a key role in pushing

TriMet to adopt a new low-income fare program, and its members are now pushing for a completely fareless TriMet system.

“I think they should lower fares and ideally should have a fareless system,” Lopez said.

But that would be impractical, said TriMet spokeswoman Roberta Altstadt, and would result in decreased services. Adding more fare inspectors will actually help riders, she said.

TriMet made its case for more fare inspectors on Twitter last month stating, “We’ve all seen it: somebody not paying their fare. It’s frustrating, especially if you’ve paid yours – complaints about people hoping on board without paying are among the most common we get.”

But more than 900 responses almost unanimously tweeted back that that’s not the case, and agreed with the transit advocates.

“I ride TriMet seven days a week,” stated one tweet. “I can state without a doubt that most frustrating thing I have experienced is fare inspectors harassing people of color and unhoused folks. I mind my own business in re fares, which should be free anyway. I suggest Nosy Nellies do the same.”

Many of the tweets responding to TriMet said much the same thing.

“This does not make me feel any more comfortable or safe,” another post read. “Your fare inspectors constantly target people of color more than anyone else. I have watched your fare inspectors ask people of color for proof of fare and ignore me because I’m white.”

Altstadt pushed back, saying anyone can post something on Twitter, and pointing out that comments from Twitter are not

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