



For The Skanner news alerts
Text "NEWS" to
503-715-0890 or
scan this QR code



TriMet Budget Cuts

Agency wants public comment on drastic service changes

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

TriMet has a plan to cut \$17 million from its budget, through raising fares, eliminating fareless square, and requiring new tickets for return journeys, no matter how short the trip. The plan includes changes to the LIFT service, fewer MAX and bus trips and eliminating fareless square.

General Manager, Neil McFarlane says to cover its projected budget shortfall, the agency must cut costs. But TriMet will change its plan, depending on what riders say. The proposals must be finalized by April. So now is the time to let TriMet know what you think.

"Every one of our proposals ends up changing dramatically depending on what we hear from our customers," McFarlane told The Skanner News. "A lot of the changes are at a very micro level. That's why it is really important that people look at this and give us feedback."

About 80 people turned out to an open budget hearing, Feb. 9, at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization in East Portland, to offer their views. The meeting was just one in a series of Budget Hearings that McFarlane hopes will bring riders out to express their views on the budget.

Johnell Bell, TriMet's director of equity and diversity said the proposal to make all tickets one-way only provoked most concern at the meeting. Currently 4.5 percent of rides are round trips using a transfer. Those riders would need to buy two tickets.

"A lot of folks certainly support the elimination of the free rail zone," Bell said. "And there is general support of the flat fare, specifically the all-day pass."

Under the proposal, adults would pay \$2:50 for a single ticket and \$5 to travel all day. Youth would pay \$1:65 for a single ticket and \$3:30 for a day pass. The honored citizen rate would be \$1 single and \$2 all-

See TRIMET on page 3

HAVING FUN



PHOTO COURTESY ON-THE-MOVE

Advocates say that, compared to majority families, families of color have greater difficulty in accessing and utilizing social services and are less likely to receive innovative or best-practice services such as a family support system and employment support.

Getting Out, Making Friends

Socializing Colorfully serves special needs people of color

Bruce Poinsette
Of The Skanner News

On-the-Move Community Integration is holding monthly gatherings for its Socializing Colorfully Group, the only group of its kind that directly serves people of color with developmental disabilities.

"People of color with developmental disabilities tend to think they're the only ones," says Deborah Waggoner of On-the-Move. "We decided to

bring in a program where they can meet each other, learn about each other's culture and make friends."

Advocates say that, compared to majority families, families of color have greater difficulty in accessing and utilizing social services and are less likely to receive innovative or best-practice services such as a family support system and employment support.

Research shows that barriers to these services come from issues related to poverty,

racism and lack of culturally relevant programs.

Socializing Colorfully currently serves about 15 clients.

Base funding for the program comes from grants from Meyer Memorial Trust and SE Uplift. All of the money for the program comes from donations and grants.

It is part of the larger work On-the-Move does with people with developmental disabilities.

The group, which was founded in June 2007, is a

licensed provider organization, which allows it to take on contracts for services. It also gets money for day to day services through the Oregon Brokerage System.

Molly Mayo, executive director of On-the-Move, defines developmental disability as a diagnosis that allows people to receive services that help them deal with day to day needs.

"It's a combination of cognitive and adaptive behavior,"

See SOCIAL on page 3

INDEX

News	2,3,6
Opinion	4,5
A & E	7,8,10
Food.....	9
Bids/Classifieds	11

Senate Backs Kitzhaber Health Overhaul

State report says plan could save \$3.1 billion over five years

By Jonathan J. Cooper
The Associated Press

SALEM, Ore.— Turning back a Republican effort to limit liability in medical malpractice cases, the Oregon Senate on Tuesday advanced Gov. John Kitzhaber's proposal to redesign Oregon's health care system beginning with the Oregon Health Plan.

The Senate was the steepest hill for Kitzhaber's initiative, and approval there on a 17-13 vote smooths its path into law. The measure next goes to the House, where it is likely to have more support.

The measure would overhaul the health care system to improve coordination of care and reduce hospital stays — an approach that proponents say would lead to healthier patients and lower costs. It's an attempt to

control health care costs that are growing faster than state revenue and threaten to limit funding available for schools, police and other government priorities.

A state-funded report says the plan would save at least \$3.1 billion over five years.

"This bill transforms for the better the way our state delivers care for those in

See HEALTH on page 3