



TRI MET



Better Bus Program

Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT)

September 21, 2023



Regional Transit Strategy

- Frequent
- **Convenient**
- Accessible
- Affordable



2018 Regional Transportation Plan

Regional Transit Strategy

A strategy for providing better transit service in the greater Portland region

December 6, 2018

oregonmetro.gov/transit

What is Better Bus?

- Formerly known as Enhanced Transit Concepts (ETC).
- A data-driven approach to planning and designing transit priority projects throughout the TriMet service district.
- Address speed, reliability, comfort, and convenience
- **A partnership between Metro, TriMet, and local jurisdictions** to make bus travel more effective and more attractive.
- Approximately **\$10 million** to be invested in design and construction



Examples of Transit Priority Tools

- Dedicated bus lanes
- Business access and transit (BAT) lanes (or bus and turn lanes)
- Pro-time (peak period only) transit lanes
- Queue jumps / right-turn only except bus
- Transit signal priority and signal improvements
- Transit-only apertures
- Improved multi-modal interactions – bikes/peds/bus
- Bus stop consolidation
- Curb extensions at stops for in lane bus operation
- Far-side bus stop placement



ZICLA Platform on SE Hawthorne. Source: TriMet




Curb extension at NW 21st and NW Pettygrove Source: Google




Transit only aperture . Source: PBOT


ETC Examples: Projects Implemented



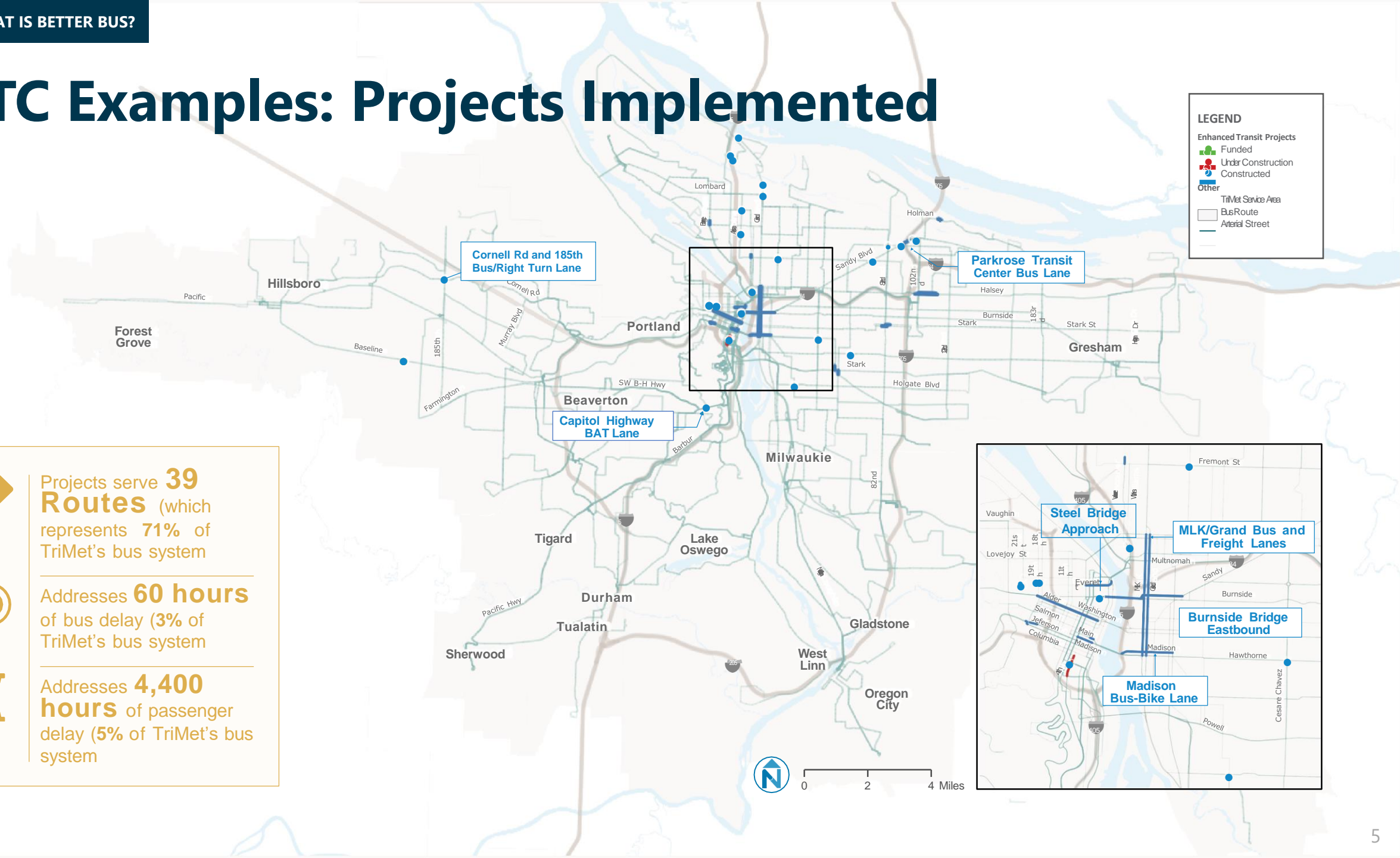
Projects serve **39 Routes** (which represents **71%** of TriMet's bus system)



Addresses **60 hours** of bus delay (**3%** of TriMet's bus system)



Addresses **4,400 hours** of passenger delay (**5%** of TriMet's bus system)



Achievements

Burnside Bridge Bus-Only Lane



- Eastbound bus-only lane was added in November 2019
- Serves three bus lines
- Carries 16 buses per hour during afternoon rush
- Reduced travel time by 2 minutes

SW Madison Bus & Bike Lane



- SW Madison carries 26 buses and hundreds of bikes onto the Hawthorne Bridge during the afternoon rush hour
- Dedicated bus and bike lane implemented in May 2019
- Reduced travel time by approximately 40 seconds per trip.

185th Ave and Cornell Road



- Partnership with Washington County
- Delays for two bus lines
- Right turn except bus at intersection, new painted bus and bike lanes approaching bus stops
- Constructed August 2020

Proposed Better Bus Methodology

- Review entire TriMet system
 - Excluding Transit Mall, Tilikum Crossing, Division Transit, Park & Rides, Transit Centers
- Focus on areas of highest delay
- Group segments by line/geographically
- Conduct detailed assessment
 - Equity
 - Existing policies/projects
 - High-level traffic analysis
 - Contextual review



Outreach to Date

- Meetings with 19 jurisdictions
 - Additional 4 jurisdictions in September
- TPAC on September 1
- Opportunity for project staff to hear about local issues and priorities, learn more from local partners



What We've Heard

- Jurisdictions shared areas of known delay
- Jurisdictions eager to use data analysis to find additional locations and identify treatments
- Several opportunities for partnership:
 - Underway/upcoming capital projects
 - TSP updates
 - New street designs, anticipated construction and project development that could increase transit demand
- Interest in how Better Bus construction funds will be allocated
- Desire for greater coverage or frequency to attract ridership
- Need for safety improvements & amenities at bus stops
- Interest in public engagement on projects

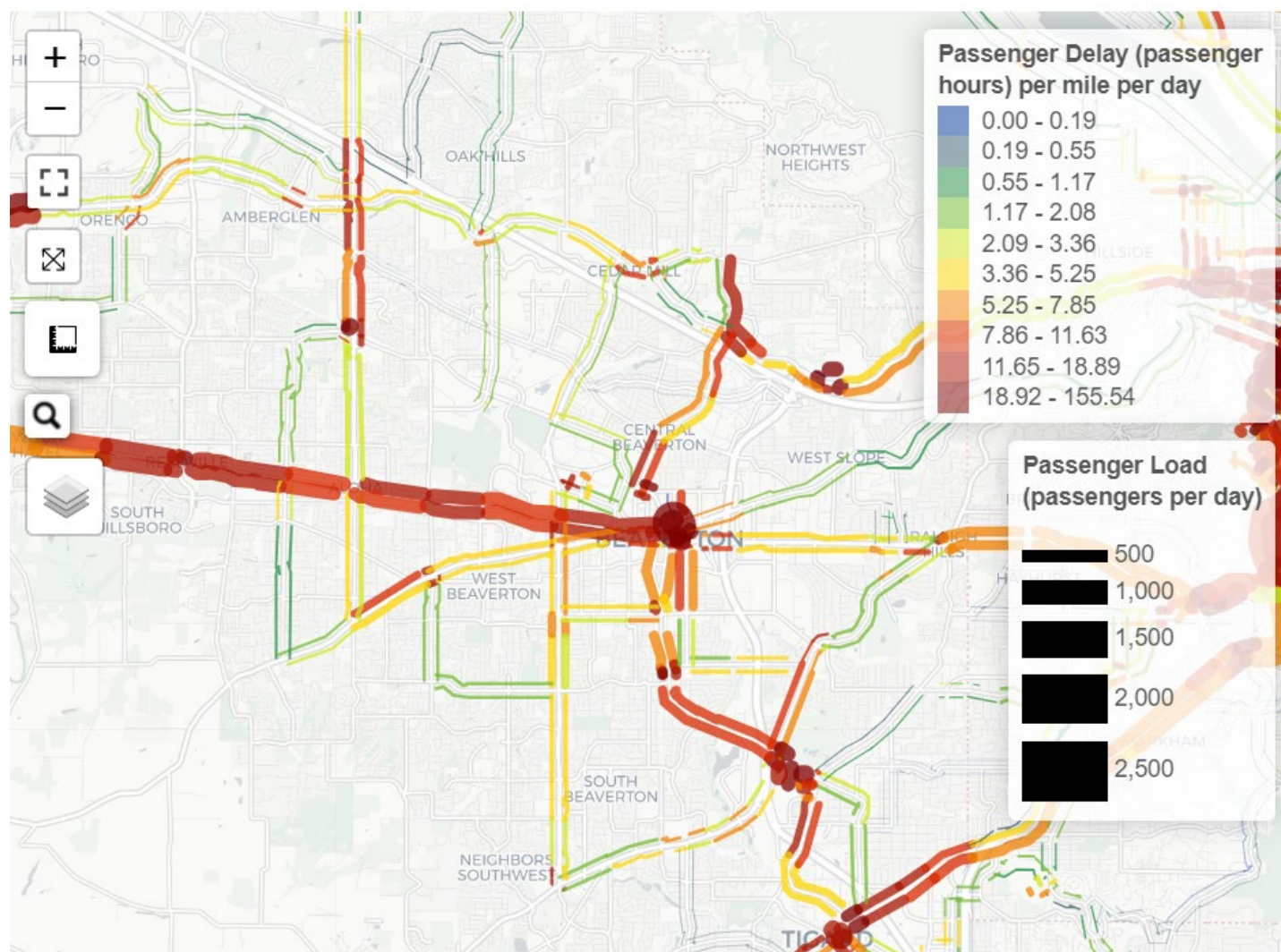


Schedule

August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	October/ November 2023	December 2023 – April 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data-based exploration of project locations and opportunities• Initial engagement with stakeholders and jurisdictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detailed review of potential project locations systemwide to understand equity, policy, geographic distribution, and other factors• Preparation for workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshops to do a deeper dive into promising project locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call for partnerships open (mid- to late-October)• Project evaluation• Project selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial project development• Up to 15% design• Preparation for project-specific task orders• Additional stakeholder engagement

Workshops Goals

- Reiterate the goals of the Better Bus program
- Talk about potential project locations
 - From Phase 1 (ETC), CIPs, jurisdictional outreach, data analysis
- Identify locations with most promise
- Brainstorm potential treatments (applying the Better Bus Toolbox)
- Prepare jurisdictions for the application process



Thank You!



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