

September 5, 2017

Ms. Susan E. Pearce
Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District Association
3534 SE Main St.
Portland, OR 97293

Dear Ms. ^{SUSAN} Pearce:

Thank you for your letter and for your interest in both electric buses and the Division Transit Project. TriMet is excited about the promise of battery-electric bus technology and is looking forward to the addition of five 40-foot battery-electric buses joining the fleet in 2018. This pilot project will enable TriMet to gain firsthand experience with the emerging technology and to validate cost and performance in our operating environment and duty cycle. It will also help the agency better understand any changes needed to scheduling and operations to accommodate battery charging.

In addition to piloting electric buses, TriMet has applied to form a federally funded consortium (through the Federal Transit Administration's ZERO program), along with PGE and other electric utilities, transit agencies, and bus manufacturers around the country, to help develop a reliable pathway for expanding battery-electric fleet choices and utilization. This consortium will continue to encourage the bus manufacturing industry to advance bus, charger and battery technology, reliability and affordability.

Battery electric buses are still quite new to the industry, so full lifecycle performance in daily operation has not been fully validated by any operator. Upfront costs are still significantly greater than hybrid-diesel and diesel buses and long-term operating and maintenance costs will be better understood as industry experience matures.

TriMet is in the process of developing a scope of work to hire an industry expert to analyze operation of electric, hybrid-diesel and diesel busses for the Division Transit Project. This information will be an important input to the vehicle procurement process, which will begin in 2018. At this time, there are a limited number of 60-foot battery-electric buses on the market, but the agency will continue to engage with manufacturers to bring additional options to market in a timely fashion.

As the Division Transit Project moves forward I encourage you to connect with Brenda Martin, the Community Affairs Representative for your neighborhood, via phone 503-962-2134 and/or email Martinbr@trimet.org. She is very knowledgeable about all aspects of the project, including bus procurement.

Thank you again for your interest, we are all looking forward to the successful delivery of the Division Transit Project.

Sincerely,



Neil McFarlane
General Manager

Copy: Brenda Martin, Michael Kiser, Eric Hesse, Kelly Betteridge