Greater Portland Metro Board of Directors
Thursday, February 26, 2026
Meeting Minutes (approved 6.26.26)

Board Member	Municipality	Role	Status
Ed Suslovic	Portland	President	Present
Linda Cohen	South Portland	Vice President	Present
Joshua Reny	South Portland	Treasurer	Present
John Thompson	Westbrook	Secretary	Absent
Hope Cahan	Falmouth	Past President	Present
Paul Bradbury	Portland	Member	Present
Christine Adamowicz	Brunswick	Member	Present
Merrill Barter	Falmouth	Member	Absent
Anna Bullett	Portland	Member	Present
Julie Dubovsky	Yarmouth	Member	Absent
Gabe Faulkner-Macklin	South Portland	Member	Present
April Fournier	Portland	Member	Absent
Jeff Levine	Portland	Member	Present
David Morse	Westbrook	Member	Absent
Wes Pelletier	Portland	Member	Present
Tom Poirier	Gorham	Member	Absent
Steven Riley	South Portland	Member	Present
Bill Rixon	Freeport	Member	Absent
Charles "Lou" Simms	Gorham	Member	Present 4:15?
Michael Shaughnessy	Westbrook	Member	Absent

Staff Present	Identified Members of the Public
Glenn Fenton, Executive Director Chad Heid, Chief Transportation Officer Shelly Brooks, Chief Financial Officer Mike Tremblay, Director of Transit Development Megan Hannan, Director of Government Affairs & Community Engagement Denise Beck, Marketing Manager	No public was present

1. **The meeting was called to order by President Suslovic at 4:02**
2. **Public Comment**
   There are no members of the public and no comments.
3. **Meeting Minutes**
   Meeting minutes from the December 11, 2025 were reviewed and approved.
   - Approval moved by Linda Cohen, seconded by Paul Bradbury; after a roll call vote, unanimously approved by those present.
4. **Consent Agenda Approval**

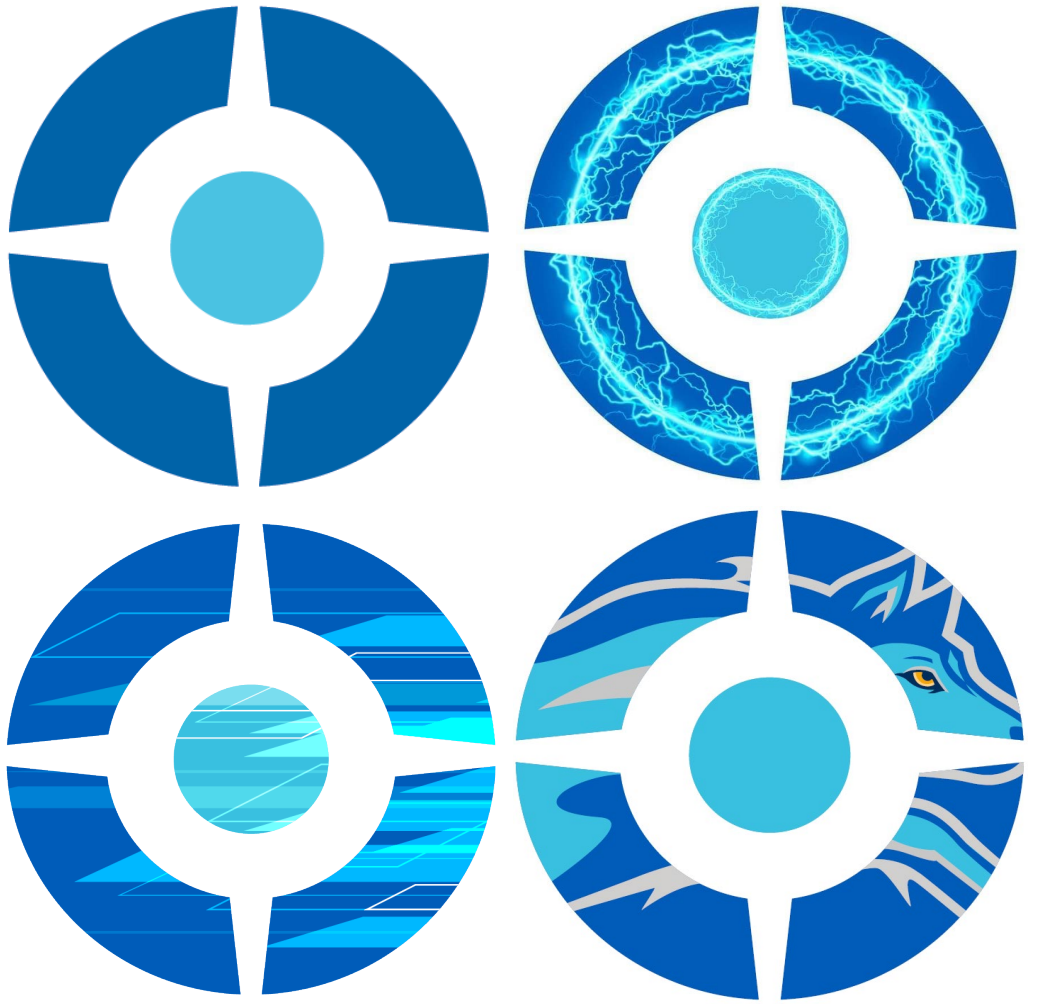
- The Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Metro business conducted by the Executive Committee on behalf of Board Members. Ed Suslovic asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent agenda; there were none.
- Approval of the consent agenda was moved by Linda Cohen, seconded by Paul Bradbury; after a roll call vote, it was unanimously approved by those present.

5. **Executive Director's Report**
   - Glenn Fenton provided updates pertaining to Metro on various initiatives, projects and recognized Metro staff. Fenton recognized Sean Fisher, Lead Technician for Metro, for his leadership and willingness to "go the extra mile."
   - Slides are included in the board packet.
6. **FY 2026 Final Operating Budget and Capital Budget**
   - Shelly Brooks reviewed the budget as recommended by Metro's Finance Committee.
   - Approval of the budget was moved by Steve Riley, seconded by Josh Reny; after a roll call vote, it was unanimously approved by those present.
7. **Update on Metro Board Resolution 2018.01 - 2040 Zero Emission Fleet Goal**
   - Glenn Fenton provided an update on the status of Metro's progress to achieve a zero-emission fleet by 2040, offered an alternative to meet the spirit of the original goal, and presented and a draft resolution to pivot Metro's 2040 zero emissions goal from tailpipe output to larger emissions. The new suggested target is a 25% ridership growth by 2040. (475,000 more rides than 2025)
   - Motion to adopt Resolution 2026.01 by Josh Reny, seconded by Jeff Levine; after discussion and a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by those present.
8. **Creation of a New Facility Committee**
   - Ed Suslovic suggested and the Board discussed creating a new ad hoc advisory committee of the Board of Directors tasked with oversight of Metro's planning, funding and construction of a successor maintenance and operations facility. Members to this committee will be assigned by the Board President and the committee will continue until the building is complete.
   - Approval to create the committee was moved by Linda Cohen, seconded by Paul Bradbury; after a roll call vote, unanimously approved by those present.
   - Members include:
     - Paul Bradbury, Chair
     - Hope Cahan
     - Josh Reny
     - David Morse
     - Ed Suslovic
9. **Future Agenda Items**
   - Bus Rapid Transit
   - Fare Policy Review
   - Metro Operations and Maintenance Facility Replacement
10. **Upcoming Meetings**
    - Mkt/Coms Committee – March 11, 2026 at 3:30 pm
    - Plan/Ops Committee – March 18, 2026 at 10:30 am
    - Finance Committee – March 4, 2026 at 3:00 pm
    - Advocacy Committee – March 19, 2026 at 3:00 pm
    - Executive Committee – March 25, 2026 at 3:30 pm
    - Board of Directors – June 25, 2026 at 4:00 pm
11. **Adjournment**
    - Moved by Josh Reny, seconded by Linda Cohen, the meeting adjourned at 4:58

GREATER PORTLAND METRO

Executive Director's Report

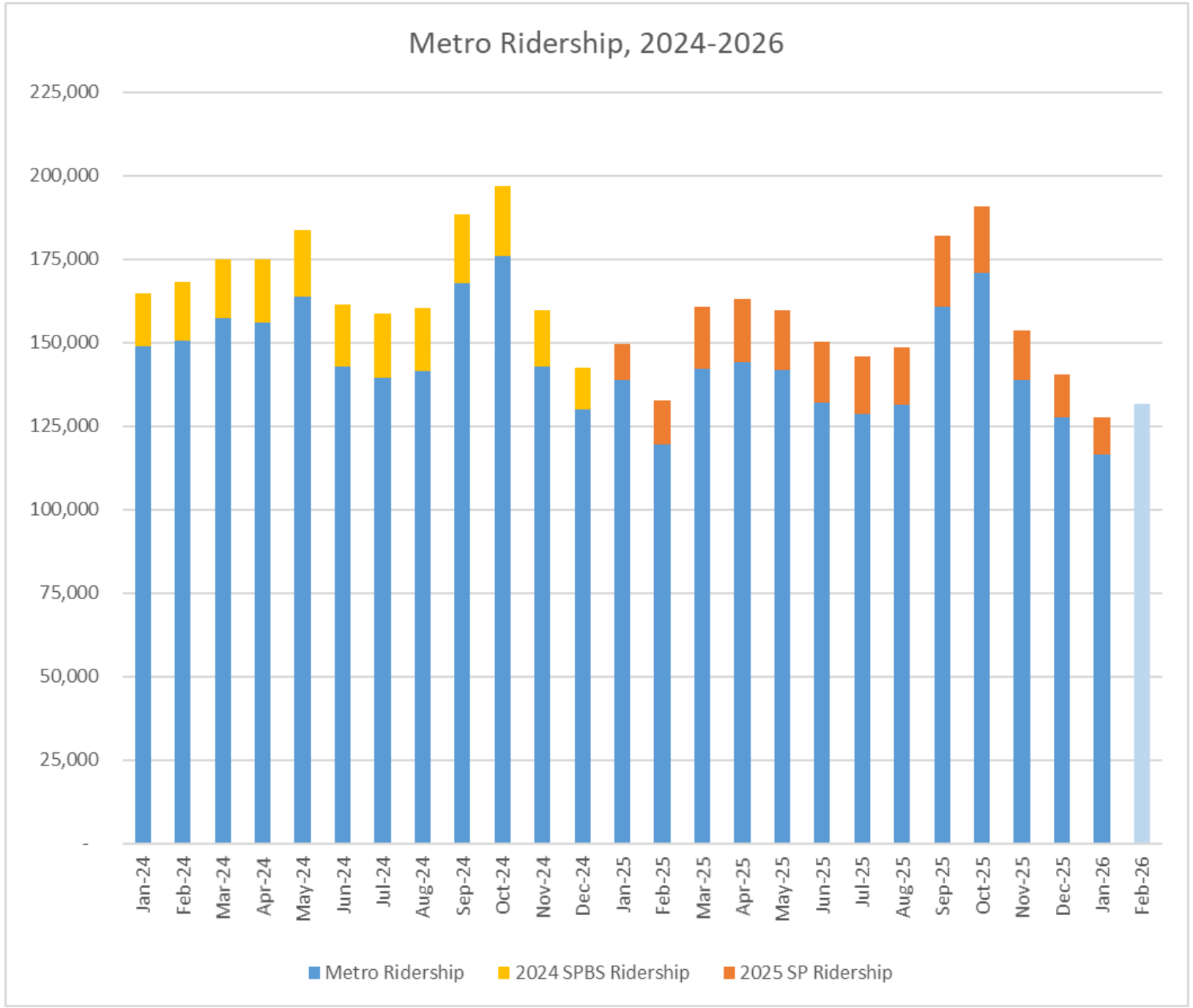
February 26, 2026



metro CONNECT

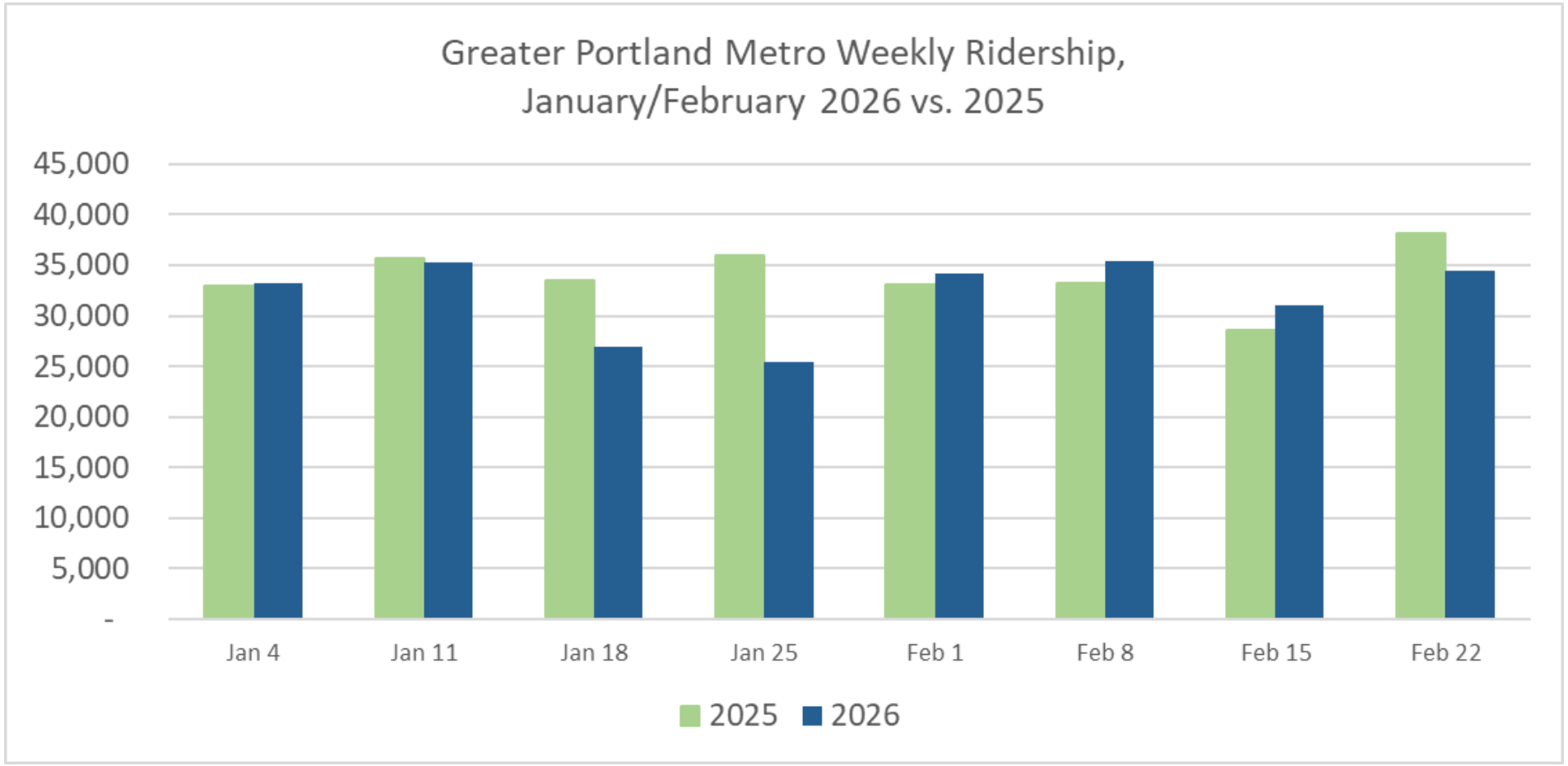
GREATER PORTLAND ON-DEMAND TRANSIT

Fixed Route Ridership

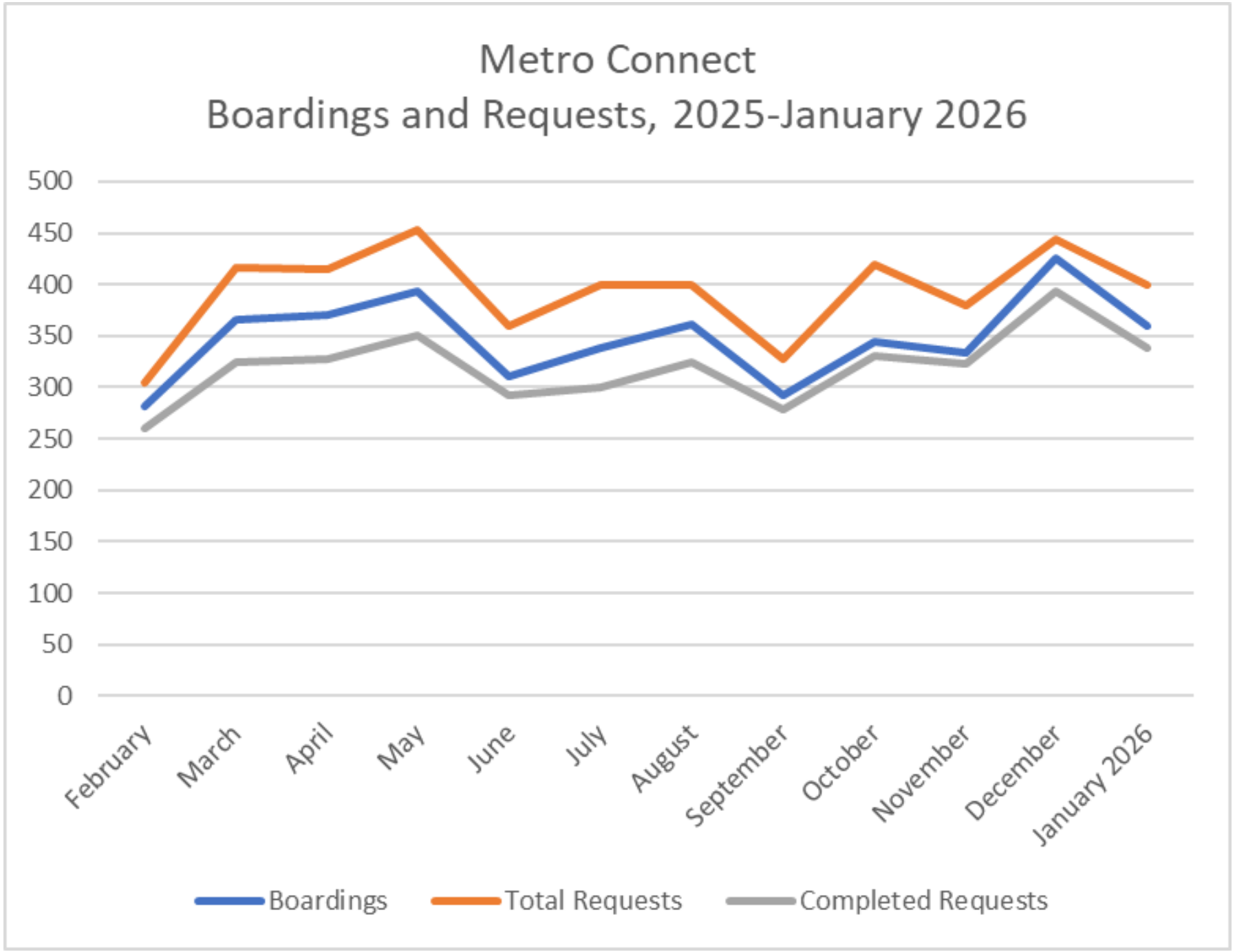


Ridership

Recent Trends

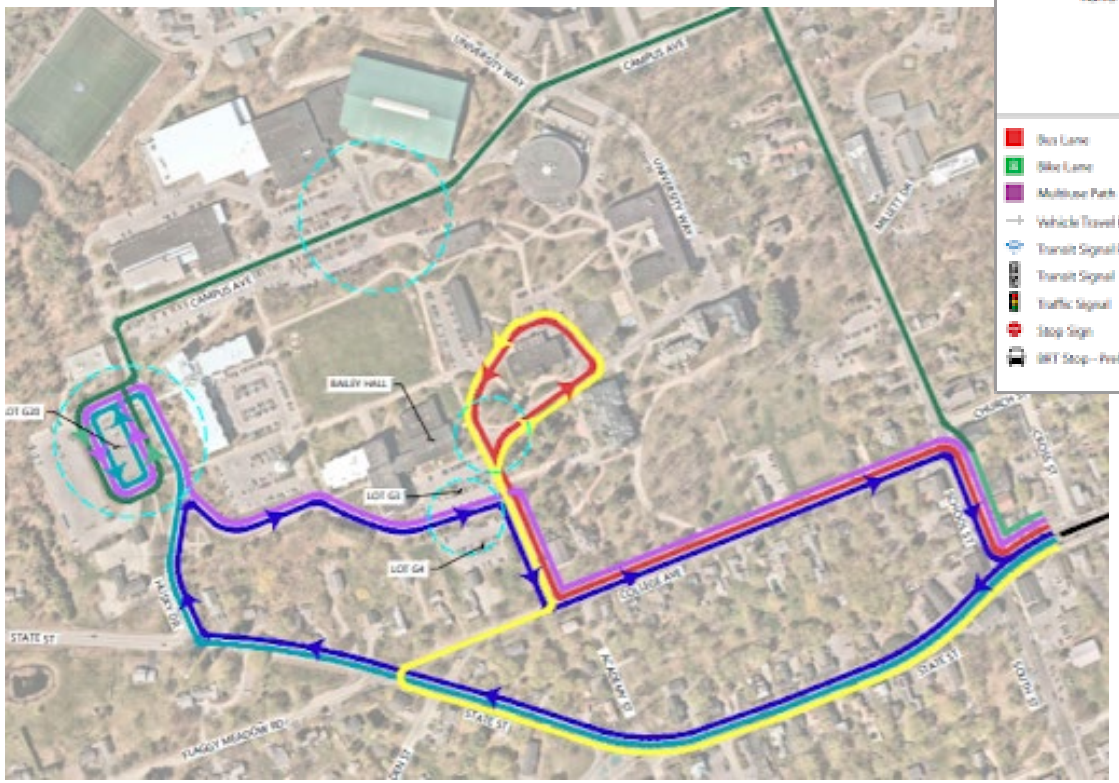


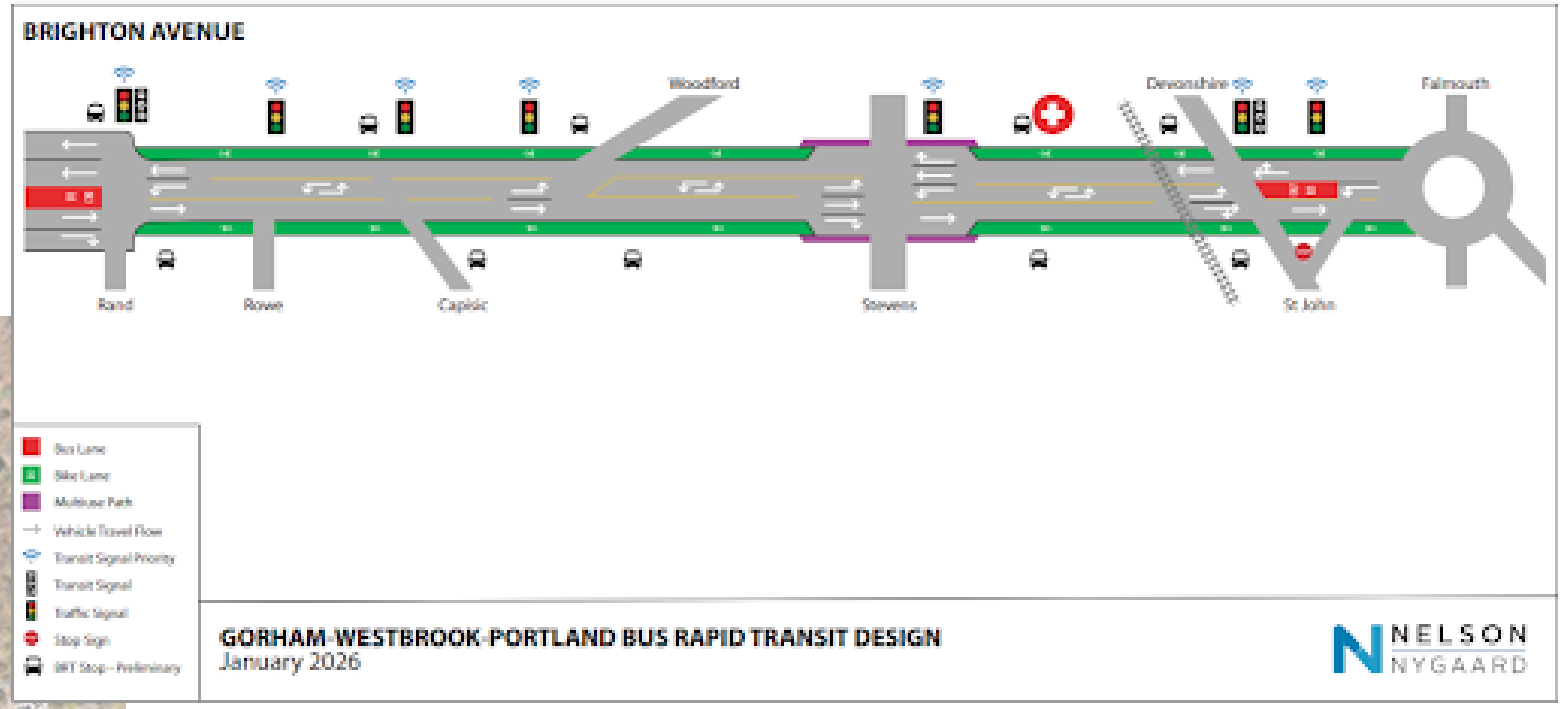
Metro Connect



Executive Director's Report

Bus Rapid Transit Update





- **Draft designs are being presented to staff**
- **Making progress on Westbrook & Gorham alignments**
- **Next stakeholder meetings scheduled for March**

Executive Director's Report

Replacement Operations and Maintenance Facility

- Staff are working with Metro's consultant to scope the fleet size and services that need to be programmed into the new facility.
- Assessment of existing operations and build-out into adjacent property.
- Alternative sites being evaluated.



Executive Director's Report

Fare Policy Update

Timeline for evaluation

- Post RFP for consultant assistance (Nov 2025)
- Award contract for services (Dec 2025)
- Initial consult/data collection (Jan-Feb 2026)
- Draft recommendations to committees (Mar-Apr 2026)
- Public comment period (Apr-May 2026)
- Final recommendation (May 2026)
- Implement approved changes (Jun-Aug 2026)



Executive Director's Report

Fare Policy Update

Draft Public Comment Timeline

- Advertise Public Meetings (Mar 2026)
- **Open House/Hearing (Apr 9)**
- **In-person Public Meeting (Apr 11)**
- Metro Committee Meetings (April)
- **Virtual Public Meeting (Apr 14)**
- Tabling Events (various, Mar-May)
- Public Comment Period Ends (Week of May 4)
- Exec. Committee Recommendation (May 28)
- Board Final Approval (June 25)
- Implementation (July-August)





Executive Director's Report

Gubernatorial Candidate Visits





Visits Completed

Shenna Bellows
Rick Bennett
Troy Jackson
Angus King III
Owen McCarthy
Chellie Pingree

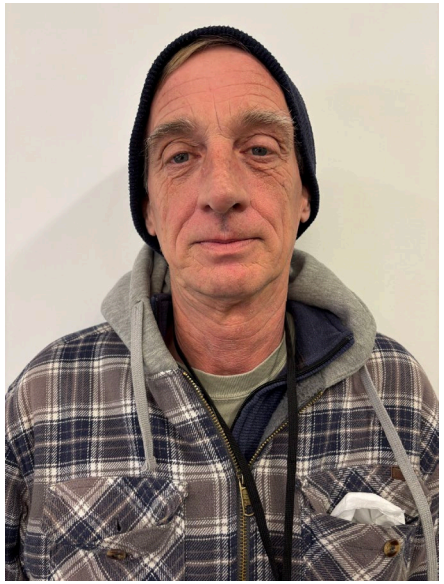
Upcoming Visits

Dr. Nirav Shah



New Employees

welcome TO THE TEAM



Sean Carden
Fleet Care



Kellia Uwase
Bus Operator



Alexander Sargent
Bus Operator



Bennett Marshall
Bus Operator

Executive Director’s Report

Metro Holiday Party









Employee Recognition



Seth Fisher
Lead Technician

Review of Metro's Zero Emission Goal



Metro’s Zero Emissions Goal

History to date

Metro’s Board resolved in June 2018 to achieve a 100% zero emissions fleet by the year 2040.

Metro’s fleet management plan was updated to reflect this goal.

Metro was awarded funding to purchase two battery electric buses.

Buses were delivered and put in service in 2022.

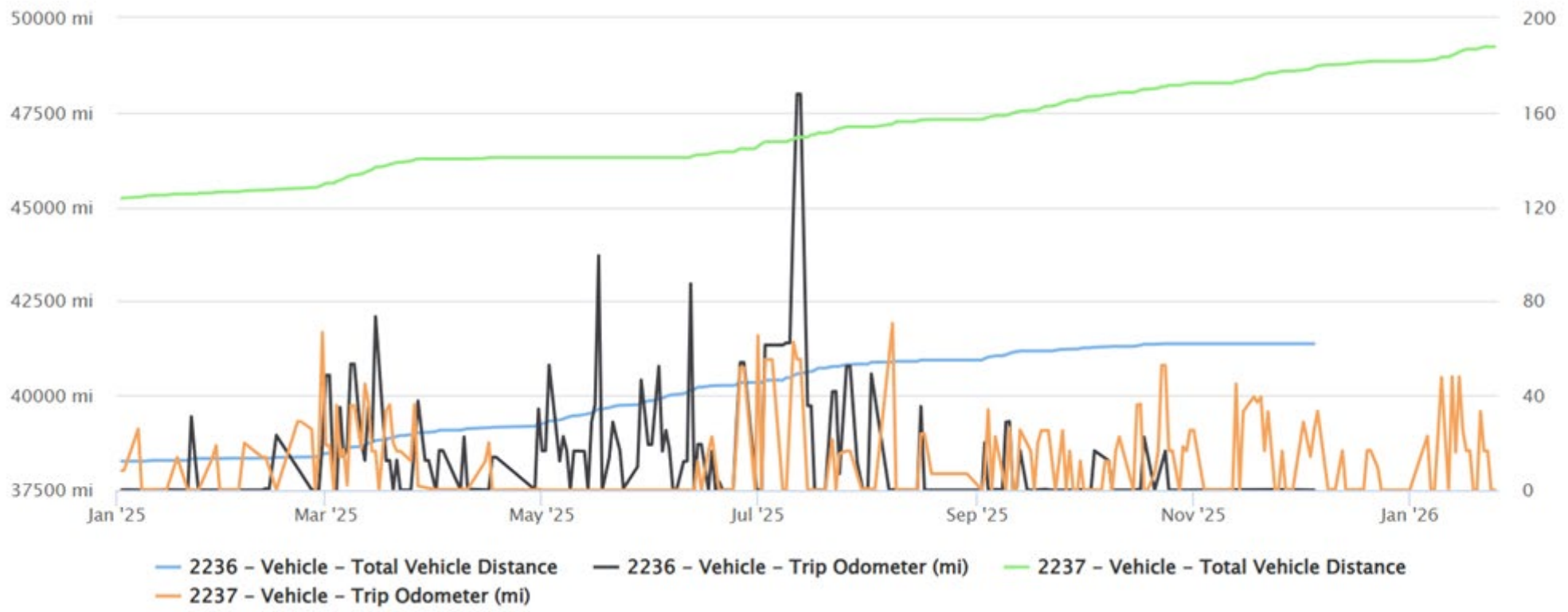
The bus manufacturer (Proterra Inc) filed for bankruptcy in 2024 and sold their bus manufacturing business to Phoenix Motors in 2025.

PROTERRA

Metro's Zero Emissions Goal

Performance of Vehicles

Vehicle range for the Proterra buses was expected to be up to 180 miles per charge. Real world observations indicate significantly shorter ranges.



Metro's Zero Emissions Goal

Performance of Vehicles

Uptime and reliability have also been a major source of concern.

Currently status of buses:

2236 – Out of service since October 2025. Has significant battery imbalance and will not take a charge. Awaiting assistance from the manufacturer.

2237 – In service (limited use). Battery imbalance causing large drops in state of charge. Limited to short blocks only (maximum of 4 hrs of service per day).

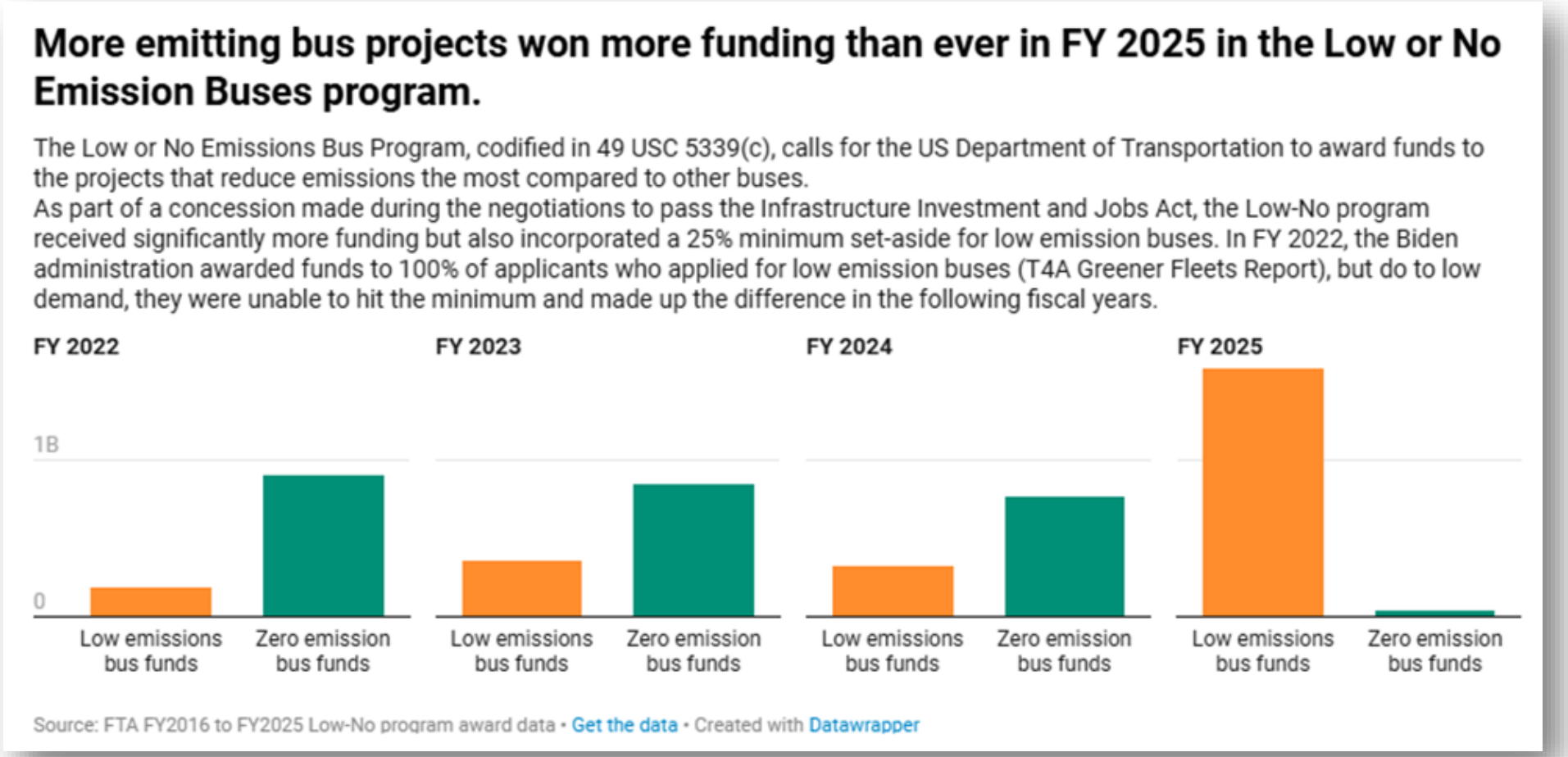
	Bus 2236	Bus 2237
Days in Service	90	120
Average Daily Miles	34	25
Max Daily Miles	168	71

In service operations over the last 12 months

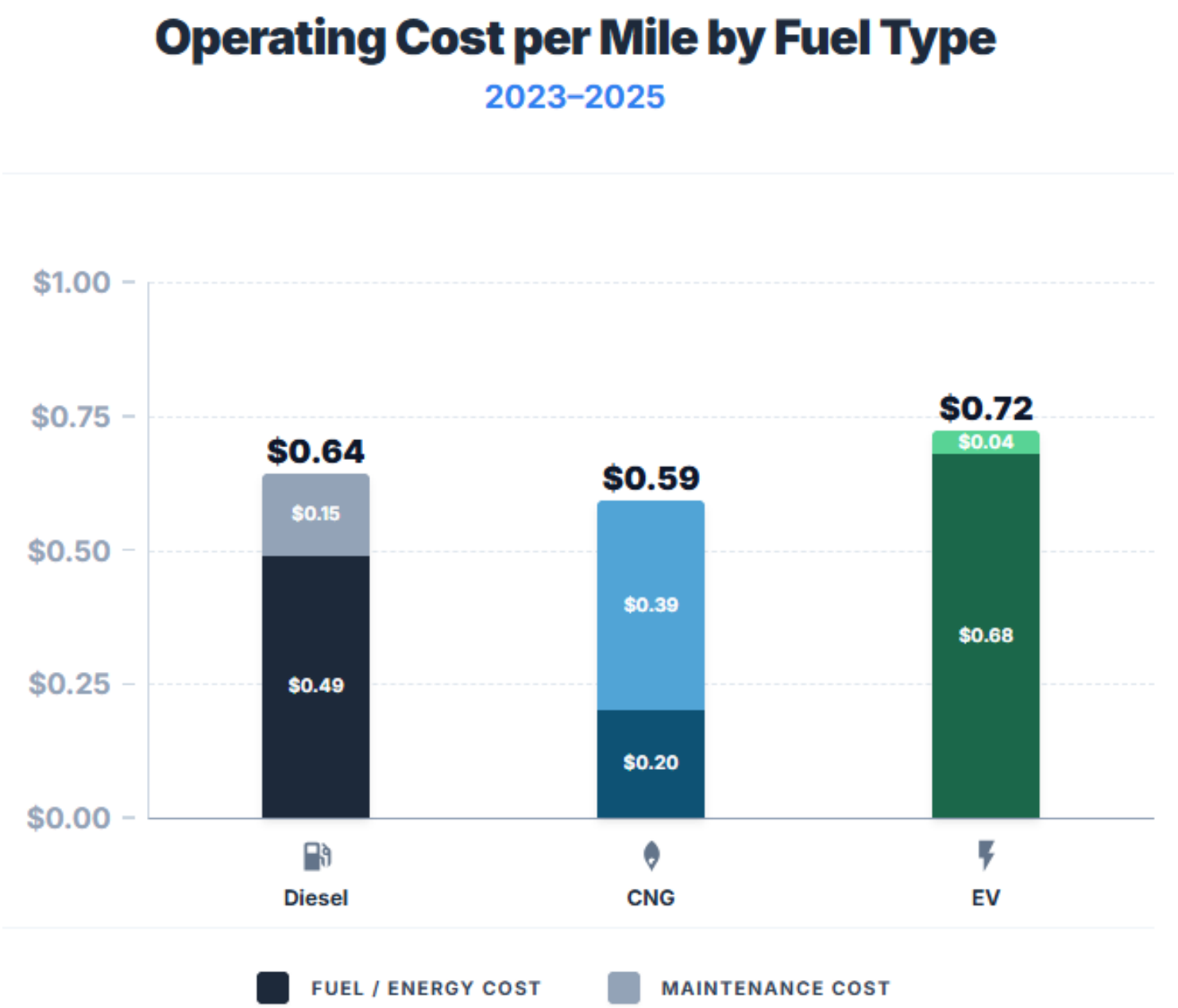
Metro's Zero Emissions Goal

Funding

Federal funding for hybrid buses seems to be increasing as compared to zero emissions buses.



Comparison of Fuel Types



Capital Expense Estimate

Fleet/Facility Replacement

Table 5 – Total estimated bond expense for fleet replacement and facility

	Fleet Expense (Bond)	Facility Expense (Bond)	Total
Diesel	$ 5,590,246	$ 26,380,300	$ 31,970,546
Battery Electric	$ 11,093,701	$ 54,945,000	$ 66,038,071
Difference	$ 5,503,455	$ 28,564,700	$ 34,067,525

Assumptions:

1. Metro receives federal funding for 85% of the purchase of buses and facility
2. Metro bonds the full 15% remaining.

Metro's Zero Emissions Goal

Assessment

- Metro is at a critical juncture in programming its replacement maintenance and operations facility as well as planning upcoming fleet replacements.
- Both Metro's firsthand experience and national trends indicate that Metro's goal of attaining a 100% zero emissions fleet by 2040 would be extremely challenging.
- The cost of meeting Metro's current 2040 goal is unattainable without the agency taking on an untenable amount of debt.
- Low and no-emissions should not be ruled out of the fleet but should be pursued as funding permits, as Metro relies heavily on discretionary funding for fleet replacement and expansion.

Metro’s Zero Emissions Goal

Recommendation

Pivot from narrow tailpipe emissions focus to broader environmental/mobility solutions





Metro’s Zero Emissions Goal

Recommendation

3,360

Metric Tons of Carbon

Current Annual 100% Diesel Impact

To offset this entirely via modal shift:

+460,000

Annual Rides Required

Metro’s Zero Emissions Goal

Recommendation

Establish a new target for ridership growth.

25% ridership growth by 2040 (475,000 more rides than 2025)

Advantages:

- Easy to measure progress/success
- Focuses on Metro’s core mission
- Investments in service improve quality of life for existing riders
- Doesn’t preclude Metro from adopting zero emissions technology in the future



Metro's Zero Emissions Goal

Recommended Action

Board of Directors adopt Resolution 2026.01

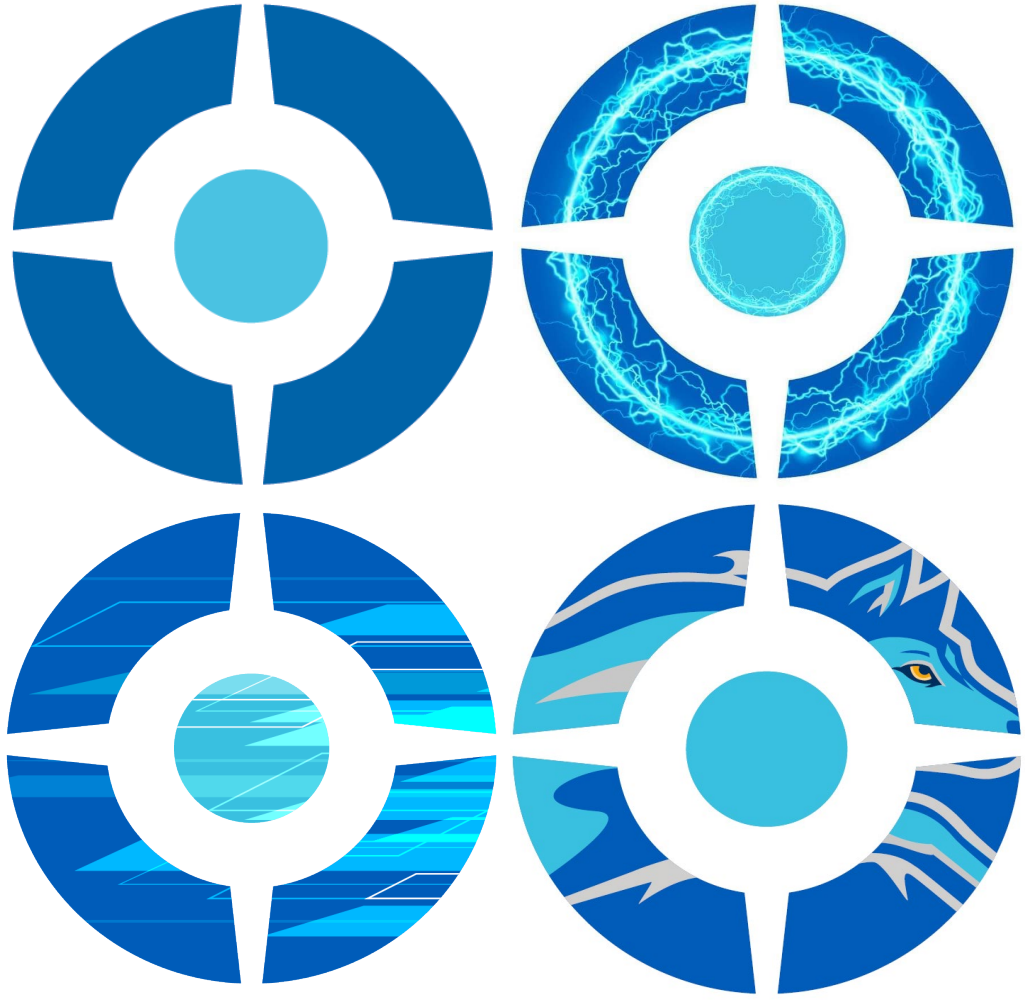
Three key tenets of this resolution:

1. Metro set a goal of achieving a 25% increase over 2025 ridership no later than 2040. Staff shall present an annual report on progress being made toward this goal as well as necessary actions needed to attain it.
2. Staff shall report to the Board of Directors annually on the state of the Zero Emissions Bus industry, including funding opportunities and steps needed to transition Metro's fleet to zero emissions.
3. This resolution to supersede Metro Resolution 2018.01, which required Metro have a 100% zero emissions fleet by 2040.

GREATER PORTLAND METRO

Board of Directors

February 26, 2026



GREATER PORTLAND METRO

Item 6: 2026 Final Operating and Capital Budget



2024 Operating Budget- Summary

	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Final Request	2025 12/31/25 PreAudit	2026 Request	2026 Revision	2026 Final Request	2025 +/- $	2025 +/- %
EXPENDITURES									
Base Bus Budget									
Wages	7,275,589	8,095,775	9,661,876	9,520,931	10,208,330	(50,361)	10,157,969	496,094	5.13%
Benefits	2,929,801	3,294,106	3,959,250	3,843,263	4,309,956	38,354	4,348,310	389,060	9.83%
Services and Fees	930,898	996,518	1,098,685	890,291	1,170,644	(4,000)	1,166,644	67,958	6.19%
Fuel-Fluids-Tires	716,703	957,750	1,359,084	1,125,916	1,181,700	37,000	1,218,700	(140,384)	-10.33%
Supplies & Equipment	449,124	456,601	552,220	562,784	602,250	12,445	614,695	62,475	11.31%
Utilities	359,445	308,708	391,101	353,850	384,578	43,040	427,618	36,517	9.34%
Insurance	375,431	402,432	476,610	460,824	514,739	(25,354)	489,385	12,775	2.68%
Miscellaneous Expenses	55,402	72,426	85,494	75,261	98,551	-	98,551	13,057	15.27%
Debt Service	298,479	304,274	302,524	279,430	267,818	-	267,818	(34,705)	-11.47%
Capital & Reserves	134,820	393,732	258,560	277,816	219,089	-	219,089	(39,471)	-15.27%
Total Base Bus Budget	*13,525,692*	*15,282,322*	*18,145,405*	*17,390,366*	*18,957,655*	*51,124*	*19,008,780*	*863,375*	*4.76%*
Separate Budget Categories									
ADA Paratransit	458,106	410,475	615,000	627,580	698,340	-	698,340	83,340	13.55%
115 St. John's Street	469,022	477,017	491,898	493,359	499,510	-	499,510	7,612	1.55%
Service Improvements	164,743								
Total Expenditures	14,617,562	16,169,814	19,252,302	18,511,305	20,155,505	51,124	20,206,630	954,327	4.96%
REVENUES									
Base Bus Funding									
Fare Revenue	2,133,614	2,670,561	3,378,509	2,926,185	3,279,972	-	3,279,972	(98,538)	-2.92%
Miscellaneous Revenue	494,723	648,270	541,838	444,973	446,100	3,000	449,100	(92,738)	-17.12%
Municipal Funding	4,534,570	4,644,672	5,316,376	5,313,959	5,984,171	-	5,984,171	667,795	12.56%
State Funding	170,427	477,494	770,153	730,745	770,745	(17,592)	753,153	(17,000)	-2.21%
Federal Funding	6,287,950	6,027,495	6,544,835	6,544,835	7,934,652	-	7,934,652	1,389,817	21.24%
Total Base Bus Budget	*13,621,284*	*14,468,492*	*16,551,711*	*15,960,697*	*18,415,639*	*(14,592)*	*18,401,047*	*1,849,336*	*11.17%*
Separate Budget Categories									
ADA PT - Municipal Funding	89,339	81,764	123,000	125,516	139,668	-	139,668	16,668	13.55%
ADA PT - Federal Funding	346,387	328,380	492,000	492,000	558,672	-	558,672	66,672	13.55%
115 St. John's Other Revenue	249,656	252,785	255,287	255,287	257,649	-	257,649	2,361	0.92%
115 St. John's Municipal Funding	93,862	94,244	96,132	96,132	98,052	-	98,052	1,920	2.00%
115 St. John's State Funding	234,654	239,347	244,136	244,134	207,015	-	207,015	(37,121)	-15.21%
Service Imp. - Passenger Fares	53,467	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Service Imp. - Federal Funding	111,277	586,754	1,490,036	1,400,603	478,811	65,716	544,527	(945,509)	-63.46%
Total Revenues	14,799,926	16,051,766	19,252,302	18,574,369	20,155,506	51,124	20,206,630	954,327	4.96%

- 2026 Final Budget Summary
  - $20,206,630 Total budget, which represents an overall increase of 4.96%.
  - $51,124 Increase from October budget approval

Base Budget Revisions

Expenditure Reductions

- Wages and Benefits ($12,007)
  - Turnover
  - Health Insurance Premium Increase 11%
- Services & Fees ($4,000)
  - Benefit Admin Fees- Based on Historical Actuals
- Insurance ($25,354)

Expenditure Increases

- Fuel, Fluids, Tires & Utilities $80,040
  - Increase in CNG Supply Rates
- Supplies & Equipment $12,445
  - Fare Media & Minor Equipment

Net Change to Base Budget $51,124

Base Budget Revisions

Revenue Reductions

- State Funding ($17,592)
  - MDOT Discretionary Funding of $40,000 ($57,000 Included in October Budget)

Revenue Increases

- Misc. Revenue
  - Maintenance Services $3,000
  - ARPA $65,716
    - Estimated 2025 Expenses slightly under, leaving more funding available to carry

Net Change to Base Budget $51,124

2026-2030 CIP Revisions

100 PLANNING & PROGRAMS		Funds Rem.	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
101 **Replacement Facility: Planning-Design** *Prior funding and 2023 funding will be used to hire a consultant firm to prepare conceptual design, capital cost estimate, operating cost forecasts, and develop project roadmap ($50,000). Funding in outer years reflects 8% of a facility's estimated construction cost for planning-design-engineering. $120,000 collected in 2025 to match future grants.* *2026 Federal (TBD) represents application for federal funding through PACTS discretionary program in Feb 2026.* *Amounts in 2027 & 2028 represent application for BUILD grant submission in Feb 2026 and State funding commitment for local match for 2026-2028. Local assessments in the outer years are estimates and may be revised once grant awards are finalized.*	Total	230,000	120,000	1,080,000	3,000,000	3,000,000		-
	Federal (5307)	180,000						-
	Federal (BUILD)				2,400,000	2,400,000		
	Federal (TBD)			960,000	-	-		
	Federal (5310)							
	State			90,000	300,000	300,000		
	Local (Bond)	-						-
	Local (Assessment)	50,000	120,000	30,000	300,000	300,000		-

- Project 101: Replacement Facility Planning
  - 2026 Federal Funding increased from $720k to $960k.
    - Application for PACTS Discretionary Funding
  - 2027 & 2028 Federal, State and Local Funding increased to reflect the BUILD grant application, State support for planning and design and local match required if awarded.

2026-2030 CIP Revisions

500	TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATIONS		Funds Rem.	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
510	**Office / Admin Copier Replacement**	Total	2,000		8,000		-	-	-
	2026 - Replacement of office copier	Federal (5307)	-		8,000		-	-	-
	Security - Staff requesting reallocation of $2,000 of funds from Security, project 202 be move to project 5[illegible]- Admin Copier Replacement	Federal (5310)	-		-		-	-	-
		State	-		-		-	-	-
		Local (Bond)	-		-		-	-	-
		Local (Assessment)	2,000		-		-	-	-

- Project 510: Office/Admin Copier Replacement
  - New Project Added
  - Reallocation of $2,000 in local match funding from security project (202)