


Date: January 22, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Doug Kelsey 
Subject: **RESOLUTION NO. 20-01-07 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) HONORING ROSA PARKS**

1. **Purpose of Item**

The TriMet Board of Directors (Board) wishes to honor Rosa Parks on the occasion of her February 4 birthday by the passage of this Resolution.

2. **Reason for Board Action**

Board actions must be taken either by resolution or ordinance.

3. **Type of Action**

- Resolution
 Ordinance 1st Reading
 Ordinance 2nd Reading
 Other _____

4. **Background**

Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. On December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, in violation of City ordinance and Alabama state law. Her courageous stand marks an important assertion of equal rights for African Americans in the United States. By refusing to comply with Montgomery's segregation law, Rosa Parks catalyzed a boycott of the Montgomery bus system by tens of thousands of riders for over a year, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The boycott led to the filing of a federal civil rights case based on Reconstruction-era statutes and the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. On November 13, 1956, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery's segregation law was unconstitutional, and on December 20, 1956, Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate its buses.

Rosa Parks is widely considered the "Mother of the Freedom Movement" and the "First Lady of Civil Rights" because her refusal to surrender her seat inspired the boycott and the civil rights movement, which ultimately resulted in the removal of numerous legal barriers against African Americans in this country.

The Board wishes to honor Rosa Parks on her birthday, February 4 as set forth in the following Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-01-07

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-01-07 OF THE TRI-COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT OF OREGON (TRIMET) HONORING ROSA
PARKS**

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, the first child of James and Leona (Edwards) McCauley, and later married Raymond Parks on December, 1932; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, for courageously refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, in violation of City ordinance and Alabama statutes; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Park's act of principled civil disobedience marks an important and legendary day in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks' arrest for refusing to comply with Montgomery's segregation law was the impetus for a boycott of Montgomery buses by approximately 42,000 African Americans for 381 days, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the boycott a federal lawsuit was filed and on November 13, 1956, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Montgomery's segregation law was unconstitutional, and Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate buses on December 20, 1956; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is honored as the "Mother of the Freedom Movement" and the "First Lady of Civil Rights" because her refusal to surrender her seat in compliance with Montgomery's segregation law inspired the civil rights movement, which has resulted in the removal of numerous legal barriers against African Americans in this country; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks was the first woman to join the Montgomery chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and began working as an activist and investigator against sexual assaults on African American women, in addition to being NAACP Chapter Youth Leader and an active volunteer for the Montgomery Voters League; and

WHEREAS, the courage, conviction and resolution of Rosa Parks help lay the foundation for equal rights for African Americans, women, and for the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks co-founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in 1987 with Elaine Easton Steele to motivate and direct youth to achieve their highest potential through the "Pathways to Freedom" program; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks is the recipient of multiple awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor; the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor, the highest honor Congress can bestow upon a civilian; and the first International Freedom

Conductor Award from the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; among other awards and honors; and

WHEREAS, Rosa Parks dedicated her life to the cause of human rights and truly embodies the love of humanity and freedom; and

WHEREAS, TriMet strives to honor the legacy of Rosa Parks and other Civil Rights pioneers and leaders through its nationally recognized Title VI and Civil Rights program; and

WHEREAS, TriMet maintains its commitment to Transit Equity and expanding system access through its adoption and implementation of the successful Low-Income Fare Program which currently increases system accessibility for over 27,000 riders and counting, across the region; and

WHEREAS, the TriMet Board has authorized TriMet to provide over \$1,000,000 dollars in Free Fare Grants to Community Based Organizations and Non-profits annually since 2013 to support increased system access; and

WHEREAS, TriMet's core values are Safety, Inclusivity, Community and Teamwork;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That TriMet declares Friday, February 4, 2020 as a day to honor Rosa Parks, and encourages the entire Region to acknowledge this courageous African American woman.

Dated: January 22, 2020

Presiding Officer

Attest:

Recording Secretary

Approved as to Legal Sufficiency:



Legal Department