



# ***TRANSIT POLICE DIVISION***

## **2023 Annual Report**

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Chief of Police  
Transit Police Division

April 2024

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## INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHIEF OF THE TRANSIT POLICE DIVISION

For the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Transit Police Division (TPD), 2023 was a year of transition. As we welcomed new members and bid farewell to our predecessors, our primary objectives remained the same: to prioritize the needs of others over our own, to ensure the safety and efficiency of our public transit system, and to serve our community and support our members through effective communication and trust.

The TPD is committed to providing safety across the system for riders and employees who rely on public transportation daily, and has made significant progress towards achieving these objectives. While the Division's primary objective remains consistent, implementing a cultural shift within the Division takes time and a careful approach. We guide our team toward achieving common goals through active listening, fostering confidence, and building relationships while still displaying traditional leadership qualities and operational excellence.

We recognize the importance of treating all individuals with respect and dignity. By prioritizing fairness and effectiveness, we can and will better serve and protect everyone using our public transportation system.

The TPD is a data-driven unit that has modified its strategic plan based on activity throughout the transit system. Our performance in these areas has significantly influenced the support and involvement from impacted community members. To maximize our ability to manage these spaces, we strive to ensure fair police-community interactions that develop strong partnerships. While the work is challenging, long-term engagement measures can pay significant dividends in building trust, improving the quality of police-community relationships, and collaborative crime prevention efforts.

Thanks to TriMet's commitment to public safety, the Transit Police Division remains steadfast in applying these policing practices while using data to communicate our public safety endeavors. On behalf of the Transit Police Division, it is an honor to represent members from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Port of Portland Police Department, Beaverton Police Department, and the Hillsboro Police Department.

Captain Matt Jordan  
Chief of Police  
**Transit Police Division**



## STAFFING LEVELS MITIGATED BY HIGH VISIBILITY MISSIONS



**TPD members conduct high-visibility focused vehicular missions and newly-introduced bike patrols.**

Staffing levels continue to be a challenge; however, Sheriff Morrissey O'Donnell is committed to our continuous growth in membership. Despite the lower staffing numbers, we have increased our high-visibility enforcement missions to deter crime and make our presence known on the transit system. Additionally, we continue engaging and partnering with TriMet staff by increasing our outreach efforts through various mission-based strategies.

At the end of 2020, the Portland Police Bureau ended their contract with TriMet. In April of 2021, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) assumed the law enforcement administration of the Transit Police Division. A once robust multi-jurisdictional law enforcement unit, the Transit Police Division was subject to partner agency retractions and the effects of mass retirements.

The Transit Police Division is comprised of members from four law enforcement agencies in the jurisdictions TriMet serves, utilizing a task-force model to manage this complex public safety system. As the command agency, MCSO provides a captain to serve as the Chief of Police, as well as a lieutenant, sergeants, and deputies. Member agencies include the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Port of Portland Police Department, the Beaverton Police Department, and the Hillsboro Police Department. TriMet and MCSO are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all who utilize our public transportation system.

We are thankful to our partners for enduring one of the most challenging times in policing and dedicating members of their agency to see that our transit system remains safe and effective.

## COLLABORATIVE SAFETY PRESENCE

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office supports efforts to develop and expand outreach services and training of sworn Transit Police members and non-sworn private security teams contracted by TriMet. We recognize that law enforcement alone cannot solve our public safety issues. Community-based policing encourages interactive partnerships with relevant stakeholders.



**TriMet's Safety Response Team are a vital resource for the Transit Police.**

TriMet's Safety Response Team is a high-visibility team that engages with riders to help create a welcoming and safe presence for all. The Safety Response Team connects those riders in need with resources such as mental health services, addiction specialists, and social service organizations. The team also provides basic staples and supplies to riders in need and addresses low-level livability issues previously directed to emergency services. Transit Police members frequently call for the Safety Response Team when they encounter someone needing outreach or support.

Hired private security firms, Portland Patrol Inc., and Allied Security, work closely with Transit Police to effectively resolve issues at the lowest possible level. This has allowed Transit Police to fully participate in a community engagement-first model led by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

Many communities continue to face pervasive gaps in mental health services, which places a heavy burden on law enforcement. MCSO is thankful for our partnership with TriMet's Safety Response Teams. Effective partnerships between law enforcement and community stakeholders are essential to public safety, and it is vital to recognize that public safety is a shared responsibility.

## DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

The Transit Police Division uses data to determine staffing deployment and mission-orientated tasks. MCSO's Planning and Research Unit uses dispatched calls for service and self-initiated activity to capture how the Transit Police best utilize resources. Using data to deploy resources is critical in policing our transit system. By analyzing this collected data, the Transit Police can make informed decisions about where to allocate resources. This may include staffing and equipment for high-visibility details and collaborative missions with partner agencies.



**High-visibility collaborative missions with partner agencies are planned using the analysis from collected data.**

Problem-oriented policing identifies and addresses the root causes of crime and disorder. This involves analyzing crime data and working collaboratively with the community to develop targeted solutions to specific problems. Rather than simply responding to calls for service, problem-oriented policing is solution driven, and seeks to proactively prevent crime by addressing underlying issues.

Given the enormous scope of the transit system and its mobile nature, CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) may not capture some statistics, such as routine community contacts on the system or events not rising to the level of official police action. However, CAD data does represent the complete picture of law enforcement activity related to the transit system and is the most reliable form of information gathering available.



## CALLS FOR SERVICE

The Transit Police Division is called to preserve life, provide services with integrity and dedication, and enforce the law. We work in partnership with the public to enhance the quality of life for TriMet's ridership, employees, and all who utilize our public transit system.

In 2023, Transit Police could only respond to 39.1% of the 4,572 calls for service; a symptom of limited staffing.

Response Type	24-Month Chart (w/ Avg Line)	Current 365 Day Period	Previous 365 Day Period
Transit Unit Responded		1,788 (39.1%)	1,673 (22.8%)
No Transit Unit Responded		2,784 (60.9%)	5,672 (77.2%)
Total Dispatched Calls		4,572 (100.0%)	7,345 (100.0%)

However, Transit Police deputies still responded to nearly 20% more of its calls in 2023 than in 2022. This significant increase is testimony to the effectiveness of TPD's sound operational decisions and deployment of resources.



(L-R): A TPD vehicle is about to respond to a call for service; A TPD deputy takes a person into custody; A TPD vehicle across from the Lan Su Chinese Garden in downtown Portland.

## DEPLOYING RESOURCES

Working with our Research Evaluation Analyst, we developed a baseline to establish how best to deploy resources. The data below shows that the busiest times for Transit Police calls are early morning at about 7 a.m. and afternoons between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. We deploy resources, including staff, accordingly. When conducting public safety missions, deputies and officers prioritize focused police interventions when they are likely to have the greatest positive impact.

	Null	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
Mon	5	22	27	15	7	16	7	25	40	28	26	25	32	25	32	36	41	37	38	41	35	39	41	41	27
Tue	6	28	20	15	8	10	18	30	19	34	27	28	28	27	43	36	35	33	35	52	37	33	37	38	33
Wed	6	25	18	25	14	10	18	26	32	26	22	44	39	37	37	43	33	42	43	41	35	46	41	33	29
Thu	5	19	14	22	12	17	14	23	35	22	27	31	41	29	27	35	46	36	47	41	36	33	48	38	23
Fri	6	14	17	16	9	8	13	21	29	22	18	30	15	20	26	28	30	39	44	30	29	29	27	37	27
Sat	4	24	23	26	7	15	8	11	13	20	17	20	17	23	24	30	24	32	19	32	22	24	38	31	25
Sun	5	29	16	16	9	14	7	10	19	18	21	19	20	15	28	36	18	28	32	21	27	37	34	25	24

Transit calls are organized into four main service areas:

- Central: Multnomah County
- East: Primarily East Multnomah County
- South: Clackamas County
- West: Washington County



(L-R): TPD bike deputies patrol transit platforms during the evening hours; a Transit deputy completes a custody during a busy morning shift.



## CENTRAL

CENTRAL	
2023	2022
Total Dispatched Calls	Total Dispatched Calls
1,852	3,319

All Dispatched Calls at TriMet Locations by Time of Day / Day of Week (1-Year View)

	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
Mon	6	4	2	1	7	1	9	20	10	12	13	15	15	18	19	23	18	25	17	10	12	14	22	10
Tue	8	6	1	1	4	10	16	10	19	10	12	18	13	19	18	13	18	19	32	15	13	26	20	10
Wed	12	6	5	3	3	6	12	15	11	8	22	14	15	18	16	15	17	18	17	19	23	20	20	15
Thu	9	3	3	2	7	4	9	17	10	9	13	17	8	12	13	24	13	15	20	17	10	17	15	12
Fri	6	4	5	1	5	7	6	16	12	8	14	6	7	9	10	10	19	11	7	8	11	13	12	11
Sat	9	7	5	2	6	6	5	1	6	5	9	8	9	12	14	9	10	7	15	6	11	15	10	9
Sun	10	3	4	3	5	2	5	10	9	10	5	9	6	8	12	9	12	13	7	13	14	13	10	7

## EAST

EAST	
2023	2022
Total Dispatched Calls	Total Dispatched Calls
1,392	2,148

All Dispatched Calls at TriMet Locations by Time of Day / Day of Week (1-Year View)

	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
Mon	6	9	7	3	7	5	7	11	7	9	10	7	7	8	6	11	12	10	14	15	11	14	11	12
Tue	8	5	7	3	5	6	9	8	9	7	9	2	6	13	9	10	8	11	12	7	13	8	8	12
Wed	6	2	11	6	7	8	7	9	8	5	14	18	12	13	13	8	19	16	15	10	14	11	6	6
Thu	4	4	10	3	7	9	9	10	7	12	13	16	12	9	11	16	14	23	15	8	12	20	11	4
Fri	1	7	2	5	3	2	8	4	4	6	5	3	6	7	7	9	9	17	14	13	10	7	14	7
Sat	7	7	13	3	5	2	3	8	6	4	5	4	6	6	10	4	11	5	8	10	5	13	10	8
Sun	5	2	5	3	6	2	3	7	4	6	9	5	4	11	10	6	9	8	9	5	4	9	10	9

Derived from BOEC data queried by MCSO. Excludes DETAIL and PATROL calls. Transit locations were identified using the Call Type and Address fields. Division was identified using the Public Safety Grids.

## SOUTH

SOUTH	
2023	2022
Total Dispatched Calls	Total Dispatched Calls
186	367

All Dispatched Calls at TriMet Locations by Time of Day / Day of Week (1-Year View)

	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
Mon	1				1		3							1	1	1			1	1	1		1	1
Tue	1	1				1			1	1	1	1		1			1		1	1	1	1	1	4
Wed	2							1		1		1	1		2			2	1		1	2		
Thu	1	1								1		1			2	1	1	1	1	2		3	2	1
Fri			1	1		1			1			1				2	2	3			1		3	1
Sat	2		1				1	1			1	2		4		1		1	1			2		
Sun							1					1		1	2			1						1

Derived from CCOM data provided by CCSO. Excludes DETAIL and PATROL calls. Transit locations were identified using the Response Area field based on information provided by CCSO.

## WEST

WEST	
2023	2022
Total Dispatched Calls	Total Dispatched Calls
1,141	1,510

All Dispatched Calls at TriMet Locations by Time of Day / Day of Week (1-Year View)

	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
Mon	9	14	6	3	1	1	6	9	11	5	2	10	3	5	10	6	7	3	9	9	15	13	7	4
Tue	11	8	7	4	1	1	5	1	5	9	6	7	8	10	9	12	6	5	7	14	6	2	9	7
Wed	5	10	9	5		4	7	7	7	8	8	6	9	6	12	10	6	7	8	6	8	8	7	8
Thu	5	6	9	7	3	1	5	8	5	5	5	7	9	6	9	5	8	8	5	9	11	8	10	6
Fri	7	6	8	2		3	7	9	5	4	11	5	6	10	11	9	9	13	9	8	7	7	8	8
Sat	6	9	7	2	4		2	3	8	8	5	3	8	2	6	10	11	6	8	6	8	8	11	8
Sun	14	11	7	3	3	3	1	2	5	5	5	5	5	8	12	3	7	10	5	9	19	12	5	7

Derived from WCCCA data provide HPD. Excludes DETAIL and PATROL calls. Transit locations were identified using the Location Type and Address fields.

## PROACTIVE VS. REACTIVE



Proactive policing is when law enforcement attempts to prevent crimes before they happen. When proactive policing is employed, crime tends to decline. In 2023, there were 4,572 calls for service compared to 2022, where there were 7,345 calls for service, a 46% decrease.

Reactive policing is epitomized by law enforcement responding to calls for service. Proactive policing interrupts events to prevent crime while working with the community to address and resolve their public safety concerns. However, our proactive policing strategies are never one size fits all. We must ensure that fair and effective policing practices are just, impartial, and unbiased while successfully preventing and reducing crime. This involves evidence-based strategies that promote community trust and cooperation, as well as the protection of civil rights and liberties. This broadened outlook recognizes the value of proactive policing contributing to TriMet's riders' and employees' safety and well-being.

Call Priority		24-Month Chart (Dec 2023)	Current 365 Day Period	Previous 365 Day Period
Emergency	Calls		2,381 (52.1%)	3,651 (49.7%)
Non-Emergency	Calls		2,191 (47.9%)	3,694 (50.3%)

Emergency calls for service have declined for several reasons: TriMet has a robust security staff and safety response teams. This alleviates the police triaging the lower-level matters that can be resolved at a security level. This also enables the Transit Police to spend more time addressing higher-level livability and crime issues on the system.

Deputies have proactively spent 10,764 documented hours on the Transit System (Bus, Max, Platform) in 2023. This is a 15.5% increase – about 897 hours averaged per month.

Transit Unit(s)		24-Month Chart (Dec 2023)	Current 365 Day Period	Previous 365 Day Period
Central, East, & South (BOEC)	Hours		4,304	2,504
West (WCCCA)	Hours		6,460	6,705



## SELF-INITIATED ACTIVITY

Self-initiated activity is encouraged, and deputies and officers proactively patrol TriMet's system. This has a three-pronged effect:

- Interrupting crime and holding people accountable for their actions.
- Engaging with the community.
- Establishing partnerships that exceeds the traditional law enforcement response.



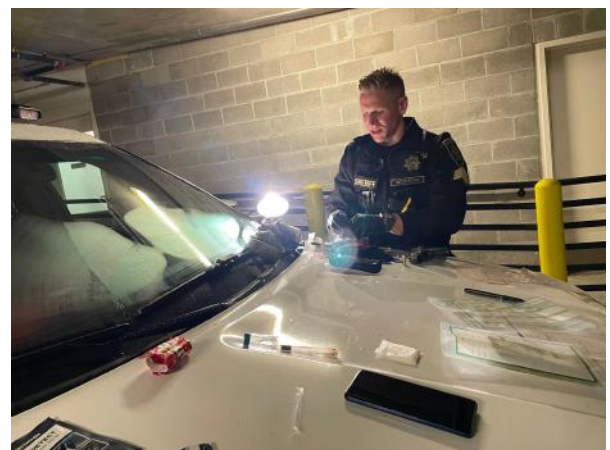
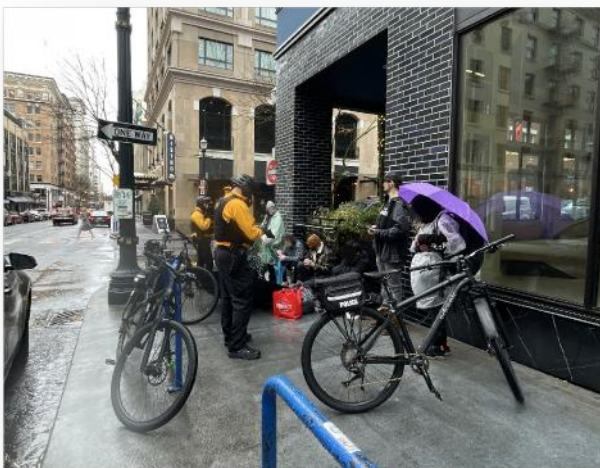
TPD deputies detain a suspect.

### Self-Initiated Calls



### Self-Initiated Calls by Time of Day / Day of Week

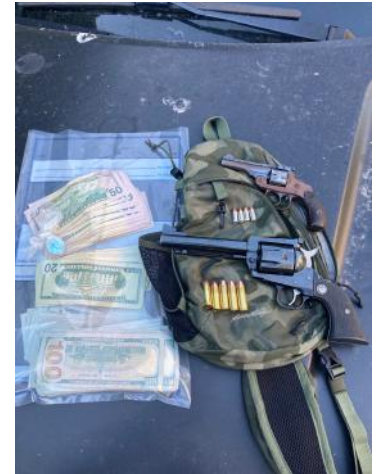
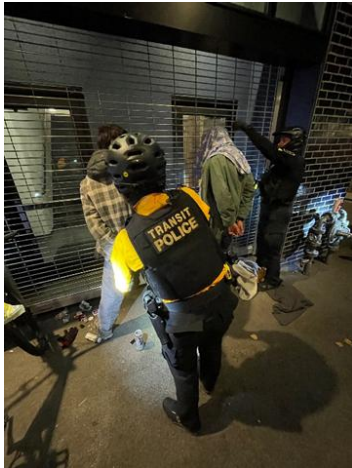
	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
Mon							4	4	9	21	24	17	16	19	32	45	37	43	27	26	33	22	25	5
Tue	1					3	6	2	9	21	11	15	21	23	34	38	39	34	28	42	36	32	12	10
Wed	2	1				2	9	11	14	19	27	26	22	21	28	57	41	45	40	25	30	21	20	8
Thu		1				1	11	12	23	19	28	27	16	20	24	43	46	30	31	47	33	18	16	13
Fri	1						1	3		3	2	5	6	10	1	3	7	4	1	3	4	5	4	3
Sat							1	1	1	1	2	2	2	7	1	11	1	7	3	1	3	5	4	2
Sun				2	3	1	2	1		4	8	2	7	3	9	14	4	6	9	4	9	3	2	1



(L-R): TPD bike deputies patrol downtown Portland with a nexus to Transit bus routes; a Transit sergeant processes evidence seized during a custody at a North East Portland bus stop.

# HIGH-VISIBILITY SAFETY MISSIONS

The Transit Police Division is aware of increased livability crimes across the region. Working in partnership with TriMet's Safety Response Teams and TriMet Customer Safety Supervisors, Transit Police employs a data-informed strategy promoting enforcement missions along TriMet's platforms, trains, and bus lines.



**(L-R): TPD bike deputies patrol downtown Portland; Transit deputies patrol the 2023 Rose Parade; evidence seized during a high-visibility focused mission.**

High-visibility Transit Police missions are deployed in areas deemed to be high-risk or where there is a high likelihood of criminal activity. These missions are often carried out in response to specific areas or situations, such as reported illegal activity, open drug use on TriMet property, or general high-crime areas. These include increased presence on trains and buses, focused vehicular patrols, and participation in multi-agency missions, and aim to deter criminal activity and maintain public order. By increasing the presence of law enforcement in these areas, potential offenders are less likely to engage in unlawful activities, and the public can feel safer using the public transportation system.

Our high-visibility missions are carried out with fair process and without bias, and continue to strengthen the trust and connection between TPD deputies and the community. In addition to the tactics already mentioned, a new crime deterrent strategy was launched in the latter part of 2023. High-visibility bicycle missions were extremely successful from the get-go, and have become an integral part of Transit Police's standard operations. We are excited to report out on 2024 statistics next year. High-visibility missions produced 303 warnings, 19 TriMet exclusions, 105 citations, and 154 arrests.

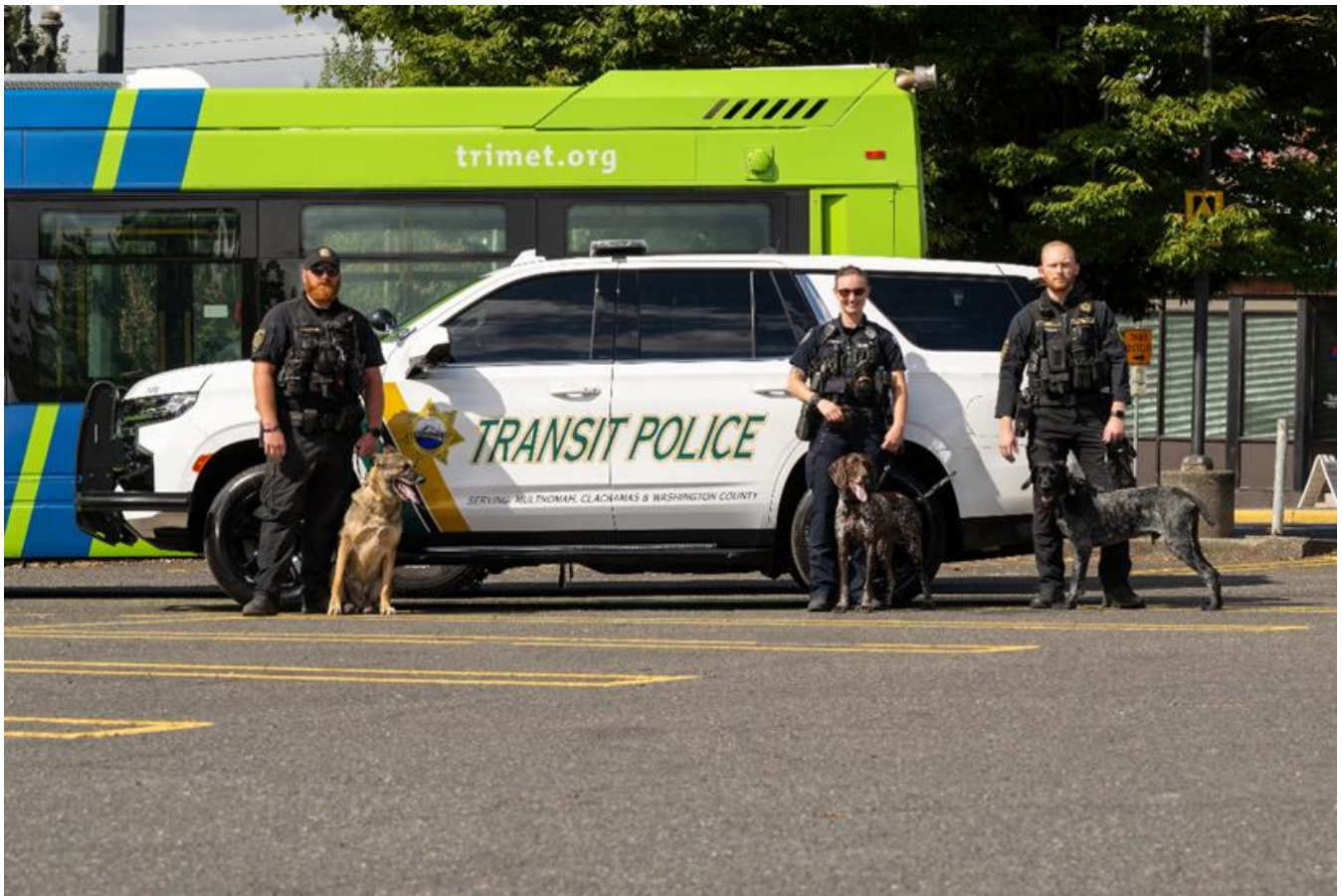
**\* No missions were conducted from April through October. Most of these statistics were generated after October of 2023.**



# SPECIALTY UNITS

Transit Police Division has several specialty units that provide enhanced law enforcement services to TriMet. They include:

- Three explosives detection K9 teams
- Detached MCSO Members
- A Deputy District Attorney whose primary focus is on prosecuting crimes on the system
- A full-time detective sergeant to investigate and assist the District Attorney's Office with prosecution
- Investigative Data Analyst
- District Attorney Special investigator



(L-R): TPD K9 handlers Deputy Azevedo with K9 Paca; Officer Berry with K9 Jackie; and Deputy Wolf with K9 Skubi.



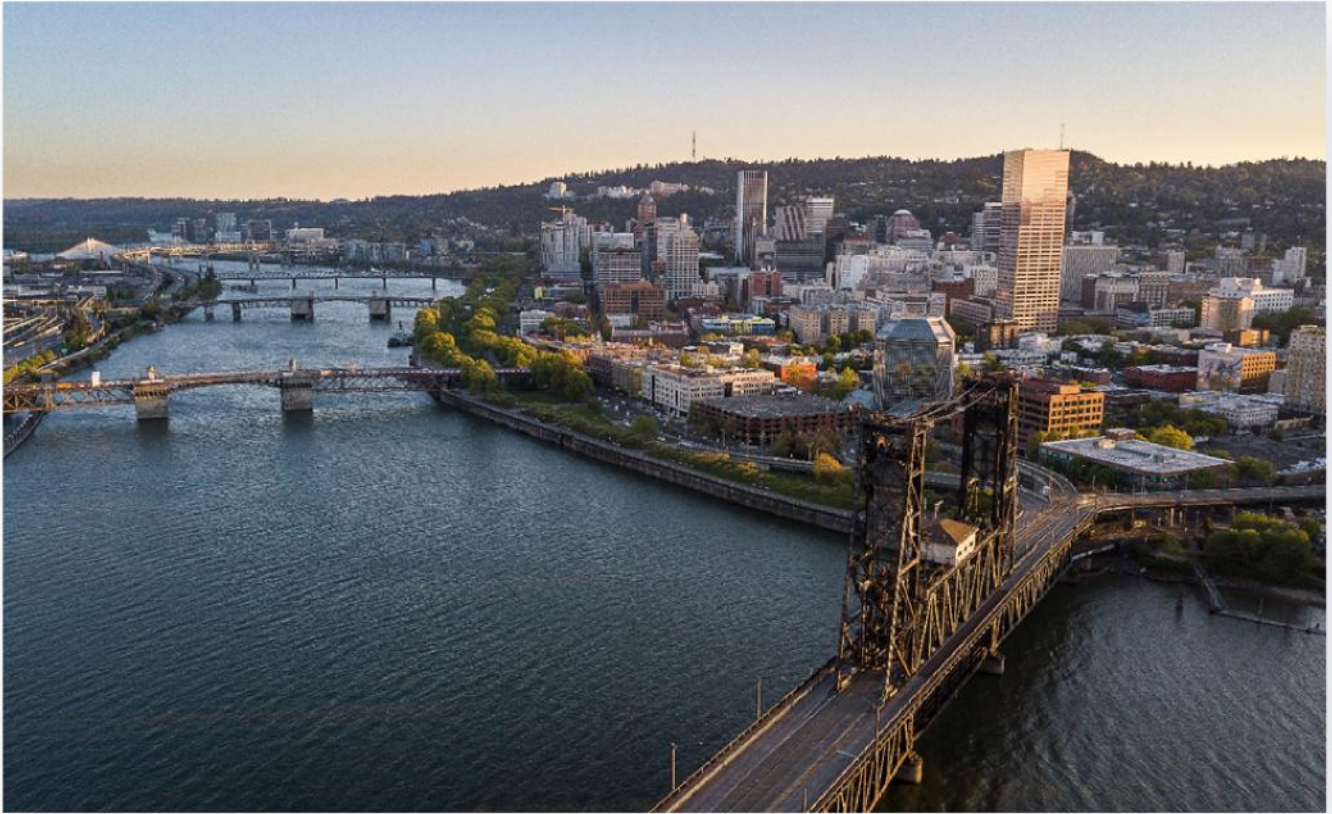
## DETACHED PROGRAM

To offer enhanced public safety services to TriMet, the Transit Police Division has created the Detached Program. Detached members are certified law enforcement professionals from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and other partnering agencies in the area. These members are carefully selected through a competitive process and undergo extensive training regarding TriMet rules, applicable laws, and geography.



**(L-R): TPD bike deputies patrol downtown Portland with a nexus to Transit bus routes; a Transit sergeant processes evidence seized during a custody at a North East Portland bus stop.**

The primary mission of the Detached Program is to supplement our Transit Police and provide increased safety for all people. This includes participating in high visibility details, riding trains, patrolling bus depots, touring TriMet break areas, visiting platforms, talking with bus operators, and taking routine transit calls for service.



## LOOKING AHEAD

The Transit Police Division has overcome many hurdles in 2023. Through it all, the Transit Police Division has remained dedicated to public safety and safeguarding the rights and well-being of our community, and those who utilize our public transportation system.

One priority for the Transit Police is expanding its scope. As our partnering law enforcement agencies improve staffing, we look forward to seeing their specific communities benefit from their enhanced contributions.

I am committed to my organization's vision and goals. I achieve this through encouraging innovation, creativity, and inclusiveness while considering a person's unique needs, skills, and motivations. Our vision and expectations for the Transit Police Division promote accountability, values, service, trust, and mentorship.

This is only possible with TriMet's steadfast support from their executive leadership. The tremendous responsibility to protect the liberty of all people remains paramount. Transparency and equal treatment will gain the much-needed trust between the community and law enforcement. Public safety aims to create a safe and secure environment for all to live, work, and thrive in.

Matt Jordan  
Chief of Police  
Transit Police Division