

I have been a transit worker for TRIMET for eight years now, and see the violence toward drivers escalating every year. The reason in my opinion is no REAL penalty for bad behavior . I have been threatened at least seven or eight times a year on average, and most of it is NOT over fare. I gave up on saying anything about payment years ago. It is over asking people not to drink something out of a paper bag, or to not smoke their glass pipe on the bus, or downright intimidating another passenger. The one assault I was involved in I told three passengers to get off the buss for fighting with each other, two of them went out the back door the last on walked all the way to the front of the bus so she could spit on the side of my face. If we have firmer laws in place this will slow this activity down. there are several cameras on all busses now so conviction shouldn't be a big task. I can hear the conversations of these people all the time " don't do that its a measure 11 crime", so if you don't think they are aware of laws you are mistaken . I would hope that we can get laws that address transportation of all types in Oregon. The truth is normal civilized decent people are not and will not go where there is out of control behavior , I believe this is why our ridership is getting lower, not changes in the economy as TRIMET management suggests. I hope some thing can be done that will give the passengers confidence that they will be safe on a TRIMET bus or MAX, public transportation really IS the future.

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