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WES: The first year in numbers

BY ED JOHNSON

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TriMet's Westside Express Service or WES is now a year old. In honor of this milestone for the train service that connects Wilsonville, Tualatin, Tigard and Beaverton, here's the first year of the new service, told in numbers.

\$161.2 million. That's the total — and final — cost of the project which started as an idea more than 10 years ago.

\$43.9 million over budget, from WES original estimated cost \$117.3 million.

\$2.5 million, the amount Tualatin and other local jurisdictions are spending to create a railway quiet zone due to increased neighborhood noise from WES.

\$150,000 the cost of additional vintage rail cars being refurbished for use in the system as back-up cars in case the other, new railcars break down. (Break downs this year resulted in WES riders being forced onto shuttle buses.)

1,170 the average number of daily commuters who use WES.

\$2.50 the cost of a ticket to ride WES.

\$18.50 the average operating cost per WES rider as calculated in August. The cost now is similar.

14.7 miles, the length of the route between Wilsonville and Beaverton.

27 minutes, how long WES trains take to run the route.

16 trips a day the train makes.

97 percent, the on-time performance for the trains.

90 percent, the number of trips made on WES by frequent users.

42 percent of WES trips were made by people who previously drove a car to their destination.

55,000 the number of job's TriMet says the region has lost recently, which the agency says explains why WES ridership is below projections.

TriMet Communications Director Mary Fetsch said that the agency is launching a marketing campaign aimed at increasing ridership. She said the campaign will target people who work near WES stations that connect to buses and MAX lines.



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