Project provides relocation benefits for businesses

In 2008, community stakeholders and regional leaders selected the alignment for the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project. The alignment aims to attract the maximum number of riders in this growing corridor, while minimizing impacts to private property. The alignment is located within existing neighborhoods and employment areas, which means some businesses will need to be relocated.

Keeping businesses whole is a top priority of the project—TriMet and its project partners are strongly committed to helping businesses relocate successfully and retain jobs within the region. Below is a brief overview of relocation benefits. Businesses subject to relocation will receive detailed information from TriMet’s relocation agent, Universal Field Services.

Advisory services
Each business is assigned a Universal Field Services relocation agent to guide it through the relocation process by:
• Identifying potential new locations
• Assisting in planning for move
• Helping the business access benefits listed below
Business owners may also choose to work with a Business Outreach Program consultant who helps position the business for success by:
• Assessing business model, target market and financial issues
• Providing technical assistance in marketing, accounting, business plan development, etc.

Site search expenses
Businesses may be reimbursed for site search expenses based on actual activities. (Up to $2,500)
• Transportation
• Meals and lodging away from home
• Time spent (based on salary)

Moving expenses
Businesses may be reimbursed for moving expenses based on actual cost of moving personal property. (No dollar cap)
• Packing, unpacking, disconnecting, reinstalling, dismantling, reassembling
• Transportation to new location
• Modifications necessary to adapt equipment to new location

Ford Food and Drink owner Becky Doggett is one of many business owners located near the light rail alignment.

• Connecting the business with appropriate financing programs and aiding in preparing loan and grant applications
• Utility connections
• Certain licenses, permits, fees or certifications
• Certain professional services necessary for move planning, marketing studies, etc.
• Replacement of business cards and letterhead containing old address
• Replacement of personal property that would cost more to dismantle, move and reinstall
• Payment for personal property that will not be moved (after good faith efforts to sell the items, the lesser of the item’s fair market value and the cost of moving and reinstalling it)
• Insurance for replacement value of property lost, stolen or damaged during move
• Storage for up to 12 months

Reestablishment expenses
Businesses may be reimbursed for reestablishment expenses based on actual costs of reestablishing the business at new location. (Up to $10,000)
• Repairs or improvements to the building or land required by code to accommodate the business
• Exterior signage
• Redecoration: replacement paint, carpeting etc.
• Advertisement of new location
• Estimated increased cost of operation (during first two years)

Fixed payment in lieu of moving expenses
Businesses may elect to receive a lump-sum payment of up to $20,000 instead of all other payments, based on the average of the previous two years’ net earnings.

Stay involved
Sign up for project email updates at trimet.org/pm. For more information, please call TrMet Community Affairs at 503-962-2150.