Portland-Milwaukie: a vital regional link

Metro forecasts 400,000 new residents in the region by 2035, and the Portland-Milwaukie corridor is expected to experience significant growth. With this influx of new residents, Metro also forecasts:

- Nearly 100,000 new jobs along the corridor by 2030, driven by growth at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Portland State University (PSU) and in SE Portland and north Clackamas County
- Nearly 40,000 new jobs in downtown Portland within the next 25 years
- More than 9,900 residents and 13,600 jobs in South Waterfront by 2030

The new 7.3-mile light rail line is critical to building transit capacity to support this growth. The project itself will have a significant economic impact, creating up to 14,500 jobs and generating up to $573 million in personal earnings.

Efficient light rail

The new Portland-Milwaukie light rail line will have 10 stations, 718 Park & Ride spaces and 445 bike parking spaces. The line is projected to carry an estimated 22,765 weekday rides by 2030. Light rail uses its own right of way and offers an efficient and reliable mode of transportation. The new line will:

- Increase work commutes from this corridor to downtown Portland by 20 percent
- Reduce vehicle trips each weekday by more than 9,100 (or 60,000 vehicle miles)
- Improve travel time between Milwaukie and the South Waterfront by 58 percent, and Milwaukie and PSU by 29 percent
The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project is about more than bringing high-capacity transit to under-served communities—it is also about helping communities envision and achieve their aspirations. Combining infrastructure improvements, quality design features and new transit-oriented development along the alignment will connect neighborhoods, encourage walking and cycling, and create engaging public spaces where people want to be.

**Tilikum Crossing, Bridge of the People**

The project includes a new bridge across the Willamette River, between OHSU’s South Waterfront campus on the west bank and OMSI on the east bank. The bridge will provide convenient access to downtown Portland, jobs and services from SE Portland and Milwaukie, carrying light rail trains, buses streetcars, bicyclists and pedestrians.

The bridge is also designed to accommodate connections to current and future Willamette River greenways.

**Innovating for a livable future**

Not only is the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project constructing the sixth light rail line in the Portland, Oregon, region, it is also transforming the communities through which it travels.

The project is constructing more than $64 million in active transportation improvements, including multiuse paths over trackways and waterways, and bike and pedestrian connections between neighborhoods and business and recreation destinations. This investment is creating a new standard for integrating active transportation into a transit project.

The project also includes more than $40 million in roadway improvements for safer vehicle movement, like providing crossing-free truck access to the region’s busiest freight depot.

The project tends to the environment with mitigation, restoration and improvements that address shallow water habitat, stormwater treatment, fish passage to spawning grounds, riparian forest habitat, and more.

Finally, the project is the first in the U.S. to create vegetated trackway on an operating light rail line, to include technology that allows for energy created during light rail vehicle braking to be re-used and to construct a car-free transit bridge.

**Project funding**

Project costs are approximately $1.49 billion, with the federal share set at 50 percent. State, regional and local contributions constitute the remaining 50 percent.

**Timeline**

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Engineering and Final EIS</td>
<td>2009-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Design</td>
<td>2011-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Funding Grant Agreement</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>2011-15</td>
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<td>Service begins</td>
<td>2015</td>
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**Stay involved**

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

**Available in other formats:**

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