SE 17th Avenue is a seam through this district that divides the Brooklyn neighborhood’s residential and commercial properties to the west from the industrial activities to the east. The two new stations and related improvements on the avenue are designed to soften the transition between residential and industrial uses, honor the historic Brooklyn neighborhood and improve pedestrian and bicycle access. Infrastructure improvements will support existing industrial businesses while encouraging new community-oriented uses. The SE 17th Holgate Boulevard and Rhine Street stations will be gateways to the Brooklyn neighborhood, and SE 17th Avenue will be transformed into a greener, multimodal transportation corridor.

The light rail route through this district crosses SE Powell Boulevard on a new structure and then continues south in the center of a rebuilt SE 17th Avenue. Both station platforms are in a center island configuration.

**Pedestrian and bicycle access:** The project is making major improvements to create a safe and attractive environment for pedestrians, bus riders and bicyclists. The reconstructed 17th Avenue crossing of Powell Boulevard will include a wide multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists that directly connects the Brooklyn neighborhood to the north side of Powell Boulevard. This path will also provide a direct connection from the station at Rhine Street station to the

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Expanding transit options is essential to the livability and economic vitality of our growing region, which is expected to add one million new residents and nearly 100,000 new jobs within the project corridor by 2030. The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project is integral to the region’s strategy to manage growth and build more livable communities. This 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.
Clinton/SE 12th Ave Station via Gideon Street. Bike lanes have been added to SE 17th Avenue to create a safe north-south connection through this area, and sidewalks were rebuilt with a 12-foot width to create a higher quality pedestrian environment. The project also added a new crosswalk on McLoughlin at 17th Avenue.

Improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians continue with the replacement of the Lafayette pedestrian bridge over Union Pacific Railroad's (UPRR) tracks. This freight trackway separates the Brooklyn neighborhood from neighborhoods, parks and businesses to the east. Together, UPRR and TriMet are replacing the 70-year old structure with one that includes elevators, a wider span and staircases, and better sightlines.

**Improvement vehicular access/roadway improvements:** TriMet has conducted traffic and truck access studies to ensure that industrial use remains functional after light rail is introduced to SE 17th Avenue, and left turns and east-west movements are restricted to signalized intersections. The project improvements are designed to accommodate freight routes and truck turning movements based on current industrial and fire response vehicle sizes. Just south of Schiller Street, the light rail alignment transitions from the center of SE 17th Avenue to parallel the east side of McLoughlin Boulevard. A truck egress point will be improved at SE Harold Street to provide freight traffic with direct access to McLoughlin Boulevard from UPRR's Brooklyn Yard, reducing truck volumes at 17th & Schiller. UPRR requires that the light rail line be elevated over this truck egress point.

TriMet’s main bus operations center is located at Center Street and 17th Avenue, and the agency has acquired UPRR land behind its Center Street headquarters to replace employee parking being removed along 17th Avenue to allow reconstruction and widening of the avenue.

**Distinguishing design elements**
The overall light rail project is designed to be responsive to the character and aspirations of surrounding neighborhoods, while maintaining a system-wide identity that creates a user-friendly transit experience. A few highlights of distinguishing design elements in the SE 17th Avenue corridor include:

The project added public art, landscaping and buffered bike lanes along SE 17th Avenue. Rebuilt sidewalks are 12 feet wide to create a higher quality pedestrian environment.
Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project is a partnership among:

- **Green corridor:** SE 17th Avenue will be transformed from gray to green with an infusion of vegetation that improves water quality and wildlife habitat and provides a signature feature for this corridor. Many new trees and significant stormwater features along the corridor from SE McLoughlin to Powell Boulevard will enhance the streetscape. Additionally, the trackway will have a permeable ballast treatment, which allows rainwater to be absorbed into the ground instead of being forced onto the street and into drains.

- **Public art:** Bill Will created an installation of 38 boat sculptures that appear to float in the landscape strips along SE 17th Avenue between Powell and SE McLoughlin boulevards. The full-scale, weathered-steel “boats,” some with actual trees for masts, playfully draw on the natural history of “brook land” while celebrating the many green street improvements along this corridor. Lynn Basa repeated the boat motif for the mosaic shelter columns at the Rhine Street station and honored TriMet’s origin as the Rose City Transit Company with a pattern of roses at the Holgate Boulevard station.

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**Development opportunities**

There are numerous redevelopment opportunities along SE 17th Avenue corridor that could help activate the streetscape and support increased transit ridership. Redevelopment opportunities for TriMet-acquired parcels along the SE 17th Avenue corridor are being explored, including small-scale mixed-uses such as commercial, residential and live/work projects.

**Stay involved**

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

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