Portland-Milwaukie: a vital transportation link

An exciting future lies ahead for the Portland-Milwaukie corridor. Metro forecasts one million new residents in the region by 2030, and this 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 and 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, 675 Park & Ride spaces and more than 400 bike parking spaces. The line is projected to carry an average of 22,765 to 25,500 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.

Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Bridge
The project will include a new bridge across the Willamette River, between OHSU’s future South Waterfront campus on the west bank and OMSI on the east bank. The bridge will provide convenient access to downtown Portland and OHSU jobs and services from SE Portland and Milwaukie, carrying Portland-Milwaukie light rail and providing a new route for buses, bikes and pedestrians.

- Bus lines 9-Powell/Broadway, 17-Holgate/ NW 21st and 19-Woodstock/Glisan may move from the Ross Island Bridge to the new bridge, potentially reducing traffic congestion.
- The bridge will be designed to accommodate Portland Streetcar in the future and connections to future Willamette River greenways as development occurs.

Anchor for innovation
The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project will serve as an anchor for the Innovation Quadrant, connecting PSU, OHSU, OMSI and Portland Community College’s workforce training center.

- Visitors to OMSI are expected to grow from 900,000 to 1.4 million annually.
- OHSU will have 19,800 jobs on Marquam Hill and 4,500 at the South Waterfront by 2030.
- PSU is the region’s No. 1 transit destination with 27,000 students and 4,000 employees today. Forty percent of people traveling to PSU go by transit. Within 10 years, PSU expects 35,000 students and nearly 4,800 employees.

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
Preliminary Engineering and Final Environmental Impact Statement ... 2009-10
Final Design ....................................................... 2011-12
Full Funding Grant Agreement .................. 2012
Construction ....................................................... 2011-15
Service begins ...................................................... 2015

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