



LIGHT RAIL STATIONS



Shelters at downtown stations are angular and contemporary.

Light rail station basics

- The short blocks in Downtown Portland restrict station length to 200 feet, which can accommodate a two-car train.
 - All platforms allow for virtually level boarding to low floor cars—which have a bridgeplate for wheelchairs and strollers to cross the small vertical and horizontal gap at the car threshold.
 - Both side and central platforms are used on the MAX system, and some transit centers and terminal stations have three tracks for layover and emergency storage.
 - Platforms are equipped with shelters, ticket vending machines and ticket validators, posted schedule and station information. Real-time TransitTracker arrival displays are being added at priority locations.
- With the opening of the MAX Orange Line in 2015, the region now enjoys a 60-mile light rail system with 97 stations.
- ## Aesthetics
- TriMet has made station appearance a priority, reflecting TriMet’s goal to create a positive total transit experience for passengers. The station architecture is purposefully designed to relate to the local community, helping support its local character:
- The Eastside MAX Blue Line stations generally follow a traditional style reminiscent of earlier trolley and interurban stations, constructed in modern materials. The shelters have pitched roofs, with scalloped eaves and perforated ridgelines. The roof and structure is a subdued turquoise color.
 - Downtown MAX Blue Line stations follow a more contemporary line, with shed roofs and angular supports. The roof and structure is painted a combination of black and TriMet’s agency standard dark blue.
 - The Hillsboro stations on the Blue Line revert to a more traditional style, again reminiscent of earlier interurban trolley stations. The basic roofs and structures are painted a sea-foam green, except for the Main St. station’s copper roofs.
 - The MAX Red Line also incorporates a contemporary design by utilizing a “gull-wing” shape to reflect an airport sensibility. Its color scheme is a silver painted roof and dark blue structure that reflects airplane streamline characteristics and TriMet’s color brand.
 - Shelters on Interstate MAX are TriMet’s most durable. The roofs are corrugated stainless steel, and the supporting structure is painted galvanized steel. Several shelters incorporate artwork that wraps around the shelter column. This mosaic tile or stainless steel cladding provides a neighborhood-related element that’s highly durable and attractive. TransitTracker displays provide real-time arrival information.
 - For the MAX Green Line’s segment along I-205, easy access is maintained to adjacent Park & Ride facilities at the five stations where those are located, and all eight station areas have direct



Shelters on MAX Red Line stations have a “gull-wing” shape to reflect an airport sensibility.



Glass canopies and elevator towers, open air, below-grade platforms and modern design distinguish Sunset Transit Center from other stations.

access to an adjacent regional multi-use path. The shelters are based on the Interstate design and aesthetic and incorporate stainless and painted galvanized steel. Shelter columns are wrapped in recycled glass tiles, the color scheme of which varies at each station. Public art at most of the stations is tall enough to serve as a wayfinding element from afar.

- Along the north-south Downtown Portland Mall alignment, a highly visible and vibrant multimodal environment necessitated a contemporary, transparent aesthetic. For both bus stops and light rail stations, new shelters were considered a marquee element with flexibility, transparency, accessibility and cost effectiveness some of the prime considerations. The final size and configuration of each of the Mall’s 52 shelters were determined by the quantity of riders, sidewalk conditions and the shelter’s location along the Mall and cross streets. High quality, long lasting materials were incorporated—stainless steel, tempered and laminated safety glass, LED lighting with good color rendering and high performance paint systems. The low, butterfly-shaped shelter roofs include tempered, laminated safety glass roof soffits that have a solar-shading inner layer to reduce UV rays.
- The MAX Orange Line features green energy initiatives to offset power usage, including solar panels on the roofs of most platform shelters. The panels generate energy from both sides of the angled roofs, taking advantage of both direct and ambient light, which helps reduce power usage at stations. TriMet hopes such technologies will become the standard for future light rail projects.
- To visually enhance MAX Orange Line stations, the project’s Public Art Program commissioned 60 glass mosaic shelter columns. The locally-made, handcrafted glass patterns reference the history or geography of the nearby neighborhoods.

Station highlights

A number of stations stand out for their interesting architecture or operating characteristics:

- Gateway Transit Center includes three platforms and tracks and serves as the junction of the MAX Blue, Red and Green lines, as well as numerous bus lines.

- Rose Quarter Transit Center is adapted to handle crowds from the nearby Moda Center, with a third track and platform adjacent to a bus transit center. The Interstate Rose Quarter MAX Station lies a short distance beyond, making this a major transfer point.
- The three Pioneer Courthouse Square stations have platforms that function as extensions of that public space—often called Portland’s living room.
- Washington Park Station, constructed in the middle of the Robertson Tunnel, lies 260 feet below ground—making it the second deepest transit station in the world. The engraved elevators take visitors up to the multi-level station plaza at the front steps of the Oregon Zoo, World Forestry Center and Portland Children’s Museum.
- Sunset Transit Center is a unique design integrating art and operational functions with open air, below-grade platforms, modern design, glass canopies and elevator towers, an elegant plaza and walkways with natural landscaping elements connecting bus and light rail.
- Beaverton Transit Center offers a spacious waiting hall for rail and bus connections, along with a streamside walk. It serves as the northern terminus for TriMet’s WES Commuter Rail service.
- Hillsboro Central Transit Center recalls the old interurban railway station that once stood on the site, even down to its semaphore signal weathervane sculpture.
- Interstate MAX incorporates 50 art elements that draw upon the history and culture of the 10 individual station areas.
- The Lents Town Center/SE Foster Rd Station on the I-205 segment of the MAX Green Line makes important community and regional connections. Several bus lines that serve southeast Portland and eastern Multnomah County stop at the station, while cyclists make connections via the adjacent multi-use path.
- The Pioneer Courthouse stations provide an example of how the bus and light rail transit shelters created for the Downtown Portland Mall coordinate with the revitalized streetscape. Here, at the nexus of east-west and north-south regional transit connections of light rail and bus service, riders have direct access to street cafés and art. Retail shopping, services,



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The SE Park Ave Station is designed as a multi-modal center with Park & Ride and Bike & Ride facilities, and is situated as a green gateway to the nearby Trolley Trail.



Retail shopping, services, lodging and dining are steps away from the Pioneer Courthouse/ SW 6th Avenue Station due to the transparent and open nature of the shelters.

lodging and dining are not only steps away, but are visible due to the transparent and open nature of the shelters. TransitTracker displays next arrival information, giving riders time to grab a coffee or do some last-minute shopping.

- The MAX Orange Line's SE Park Avenue Station, a gateway to the Oak Grove neighborhood and to Clackamas County communities further south, supports the surrounding area through art, urban design and station design. The plaza next to the station platform provides a community gathering place and an opportunity to celebrate the natural resources of the community.

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Light Rail Stations Tour Fact Sheet / August 2016