



## Regional partner

Working together to help meet Oregon's target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks



SPRING 2013

# CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES SCENARIOS PROJECT



## Climate benefits

Mixed-use development	★★★★★
Active transportation	★★★☆☆
Traffic management	★★★★☆

These greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies are an important part of what the City of Beaverton is already doing to realize its vision for the future, and provide a strong foundation for meeting state climate goals for 2035. The climate benefits shown represent the relative effectiveness of each strategy.

For more information on greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies, refer to the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project website at [www.oregonmetro.gov/climatescenarios](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/climatescenarios).



## Keys to success

### Develop a broad strategy for revitalization

In addition to promoting a mix of new housing and businesses within a well-connected street, bicycle and sidewalk network, revitalization efforts should also provide opportunities for recreation and enjoying art. Marketing and economic development are enhanced by projects that improve storefronts and signage.

### Combine community investment tools

Beaverton continues to build its toolbox of policies and investments to grow local jobs and expand downtown housing choices, provide needed infrastructure, and demonstrate the city's commitment to sustainability and revitalization efforts.

### Leverage partnerships and resources

Downtown revitalization requires the cooperation of public agencies, chambers of commerce, local businesses and civic organizations, as well as leveraging local, regional, state and federal resources to build needed investments.

### Build community and business champions

The ideas borne out of the Beaverton Community Vision and refined through the Beaverton Civic Plan have helped achieve successes with residents and businesses.

## About Metro

Metro crosses city limits and county lines to build a resilient economy, keep nature close by and respond to a changing climate. Representing a diverse population of 1.5 million people in 25 cities and three counties, Metro's directly elected council gives voters a voice in decisions about how the region grows and communities prosper. Metro works with communities, businesses and residents to make the Portland metropolitan area a great place to live, work and shape the future.

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## COMMUNITY CASE STUDY SERIES

This case study showcases actions that communities in the Portland metropolitan region are already taking to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and small trucks.

This is one of eight in a series developed for the Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project.

- Beaverton
- Clackamas County
- Gateway (Portland)
- Hillsboro
- Rockwood (Gresham)
- Wilsonville
- Employer-based commuter programs
- Neighborhood-based travel options



## Strategies

- Mixed-use development
- Active transportation
- Traffic management

# Beaverton Community case study

## Beaverton builds economic opportunity

Beaverton is revitalizing its downtown with targeted investments and partnerships to create jobs and civic destinations, increase housing choices, provide access to nature and expand travel options for residents and visitors. These actions are helping the city grow in a sustainable manner, create a healthy, livable community and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

Downtown Beaverton is served by three state highways, one commuter rail line, two light rail lines and one freight rail line that connect Beaverton to other communities in the region. Since opening in 1998, TriMet's MAX light rail stations have attracted housing, employment and retail development to the area. A project known as The Round, featuring a mix of office and housing, was built around the Beaverton Central station surrounding a circular plaza that includes the MAX station.

Old Town, south of Farmington Road, offers a well connected street grid and historic buildings with small businesses and pedestrian-oriented retail. The Beaverton Central Library, Beaverton City Park and the Beaverton Farmers Market are gathering places that serve nearby neighborhoods and visitors from across the region.

The city has built strong public support for and remains committed to expanding housing and transportation choices, creating parks and natural areas, and supporting local businesses to spur downtown revitalization.

## Key challenges

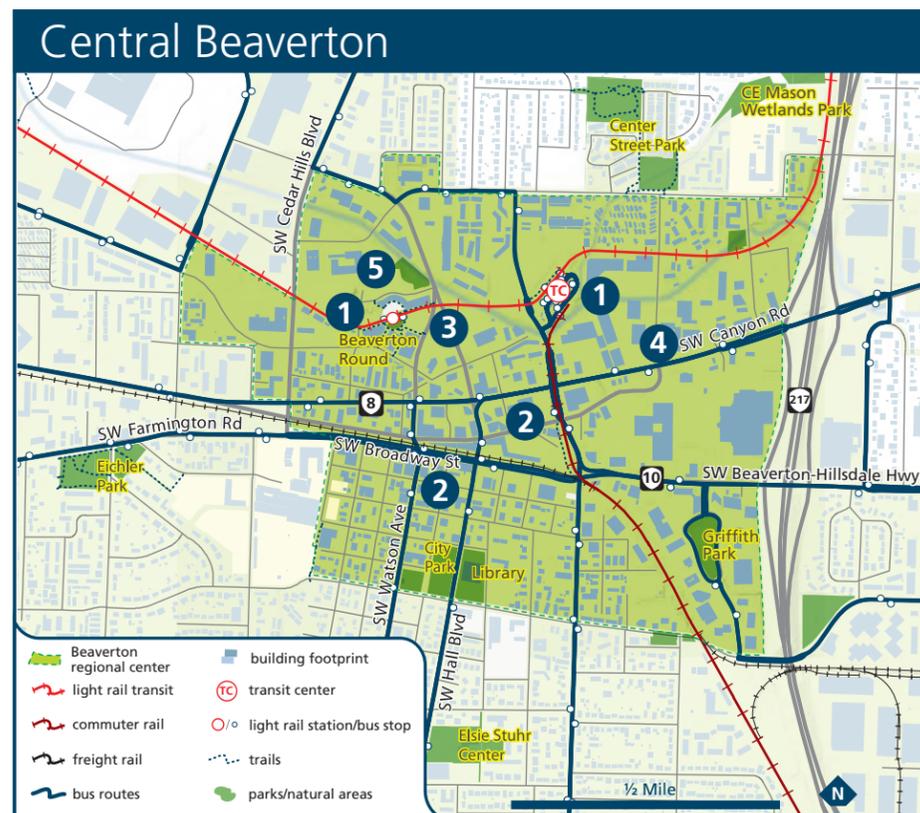
- Major transportation corridors divide the north and south parts of downtown Beaverton.
- An incomplete street network, high traffic volumes, long blocks and inadequate bike and pedestrian crossings limit access and mobility.
- The Round remains incomplete, contributing to the lack of downtown housing choices and job opportunities.
- Aging infrastructure and empty or underutilized development sites limit the vibrancy of the area.



The Oregon Legislature has required the Portland metropolitan region to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions from cars and small trucks by 2035.

# Investments and partnerships revitalize downtown Beaverton

The City of Beaverton is leveraging its existing transportation system, infrastructure, land and financial resources to build a prosperous and vibrant community that will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially from transportation. The city has targeted policies, financial incentives and investments to support local businesses, grow local jobs, encourage more people to live and work in downtown, manage parking, make the area safer and more convenient to walk and bike, improve traffic operations, and transform Canyon Road to be more pleasant and attractive. Hosting activities such as the Beaverton Farmer's Market, regular arts and culture events like the expanded Old Town Festival, the annual International Festival, Flicks by the Fountain, and painting downtown murals attracts residents and customers to the area. The city's actions leverage local, regional, state and federal partnerships and resources that further catalyze downtown revitalization efforts.



## Timeline

2010	2011	2012	2015-2020	2020-2040
Beaverton Community Vision calls for creating a vibrant downtown and improving mobility	Beaverton Civic Plan emphasizes greater connectivity, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability Voters adopt \$150 million Beaverton Urban Renewal Plan	\$1 million HUD Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant awarded to help implement Beaverton Civic Plan	Improvements made to Canyon Road streetscape and downtown creek, park and plaza Off-Canyon Road bicycle boulevard network launched	Completion of the Beaverton Urban Renewal Plan projects attracts business and housing, improves traffic flow and public safety, and spurs private investment

## 1 Growing the economy with jobs, housing and transit

Nearly 1,100 businesses and more than 14,000 jobs exist within one mile of downtown Beaverton. The Beaverton Transit Center serves as the primary transit hub of Washington County and has one of the highest ridership rates in the TriMet system with two light rail lines, a WES commuter line, and eleven bus lines. While housing options in the downtown area are limited, the city is leveraging public and private investments and innovative tools to encourage people to live and work in the downtown core and attract new restaurants, shops and services that people want to visit.

Community and economic development efforts currently underway include:

- policies and investments that encourage new housing and businesses to locate downtown near transit
- an inventory of brownfield sites for potential redevelopment
- business programs and incentives for microenterprises, start-ups and target industries, including tax credits, storefront improvement grants and workforce development assistance
- financial incentives and partnerships with nonprofit organizations to build affordable housing choices
- allowing businesses to share parking spaces and removing minimum parking requirements in designated areas,

including areas located near transit, to encourage efficient use of available parking

- installing electric vehicle charging stations downtown.

## 2 Making way for biking and walking

The city has prioritized investments to:

- implement a wayfinding system that provides directional guidance to area destinations for biking, walking and taking transit
- create bicycle boulevards on low-traffic streets, add east-west bike corridors that parallel Canyon Road, increase bicycle parking, and fill gaps in the bicycle network
- improve pedestrian access to area businesses and transit service by making street crossings safer, filling sidewalk gaps, and adding curb ramps, benches and lighting to make walking safer, more convenient and pleasant.

## 3 Improving traffic operations

Congestion along major travel corridors causes delays that increase vehicle idling and emissions. To address this, the city:

- constructed multi-modal streets that parallel state highways to provide an alternative for local traffic
- installed adaptive traffic signals that are synchronized to optimize traffic flow.

## 4 Transforming Canyon Road

Canyon Road emerged as a high priority during Beaverton's Community Vision and Civic Plan process. It is a noisy and intimidating place to walk with few crossings and heavy traffic. Beaverton is collaborating with the Oregon Department of Transportation to redesign Canyon Road to be pedestrian-friendly and more attractive for development. Key investments identified to transform the corridor include:

- safer pedestrian and bicycle crossings at key intersections
- sidewalk improvements, landscaping, transit stop improvements, pedestrian-scale lighting and stormwater treatment facilities
- an off-Canyon Road bicycle boulevard network, providing parallel routes for biking
- new street connections to provide multiple routes for travel.

## 5 Connecting people with nature

The Beaverton Creekside District, comprising nearly 50 acres in the downtown area, is located near Beaverton's downtown creeks. It sits at the core of the area's transit system, providing a focal point for revitalization efforts.

Restoring and enhancing the downtown creeks will improve water quality and provide places for residents and visitors to enjoy the natural environment.

