

June 2016-July 2017 Public Engagement Summary

The purpose of this public engagement summary is to document the activities and outcomes of Southwest Corridor Plan outreach from June 2016 through July 2017. This work builds on public engagement activities conducted since the beginning of the Southwest Corridor Plan process, and begins to focus specifically on the light rail project as it enters the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) period.

Overview

Seven years ago, regional leaders began envisioning a set of transportation and land use solutions to address key challenges and enhance livability in the Southwest Corridor. The Southwest Corridor Plan is a package of transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian solutions that can help reduce congestion, improve circulation and quality of life in the corridor. The Southwest Corridor Plan defines transportation investments to help realize the local land use visions adopted by each community in the area. In 2016, the decisions to study light rail transit and route options were narrowed into a package for study in the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS). The DEIS study is underway now and it is expected to result in a report for public review and comment in early 2018.

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Metro News stories

Earned media coverage



Bridgeport Farmer's Market, July 2017

The Draft Environmental Impact Study

A key part of the Southwest Corridor Plan is a proposed 12-mile MAX light rail line from downtown Portland to Tigard and Bridgeport Village in Tualatin, along with numerous walking, biking and roadway projects to help people access stations.

Light rail is typically paid for by a mixture of federal and local dollars. To qualify for federal financial support, the project is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to complete an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Metro and TriMet are the co-lead agencies for the environmental review process.

The nature of the federal environmental review process does not lend itself to ongoing

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public engagement. No decisions may be made while the environmental assessment is in process, and the findings of analysis must be vetted with participating agencies (including the City of Portland) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) prior to release.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC was created and populated by the Southwest Corridor Steering Committee in December 2016, based on guidance from project partner staff. The role of the CAC is to advise the Steering Committee on the selection of the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which is the single light rail alignment that will be advanced to the Federal Transit Administration for their consideration.

Membership in the CAC was established through an open, public application process. Applications were accepted from October 31 to November 21, 2016. The process was advertised on the Metro website, on social media, via our interested parties email list, and by partner agencies including the City of

Portland. The project received 47 applications (21 from Portland and 26 from other areas). The Steering Committee appointed a 19-person committee. The committee is made up of twelve men and seven women, with nine members from Portland, seven from Tigard, two from Tualatin and one from Washington County.

The selection of the LPA is anticipated to occur in March 2018, preceded by the CAC's recommendation in February or March 2018. In preparation of this recommendation, the CAC is meeting the 1st Monday of every month – usually at the Multnomah Arts Center – to hear from project staff on the project background and upcoming decisions. Starting in May 2017, the CAC was presented with Briefing Books (see below) that summarizes alignment choices. These presentations will continue through October 2017. Through facilitated discussion, the CAC identifies key considerations that they think will be important during LPA decision-making. These considerations are presented to the Southwest Corridor Steering Committee by CAC liaisons. Early in 2018, the CAC will have the information they need to make an LPA recommendation to the Steering Committee.



Public Engagement Desired Outcomes

- Input on key issues and trade-offs specific to each key community in the corridor
- Input on desired benefits that Southwest Corridor Plan investments can bring to communities in the region
- Elevated voices of champions for the project
- Public stakeholders feel they have access to project details, technical staff and decision makers
- Decision-makers understand and consider public input in their decision making



Community Advisory Committee

- Carine Arendes - Tigard City Center Advisory Committee representative
- Roger Averbeck - Oregon Walks and Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee representative
- Stephan Belding - Tigard Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory committee representative
- Rachel Duke – Community Partners for Affordable Housing
- Tim Dickey - At large
- Jim Gardner - South Portland neighborhood representative
- Bill Garyfallou – Barbur business and property owner
- Chad Hastings - Center Cal Properties
- Michael Kisor - SW Portland resident and bicycle/ pedestrian advocate
- Lonnie Martinez- Tigard Transportation Advisory Committee representative
- Debi Mollahan - Tigard Chamber of Commerce
- Linda Moholt- Tualatin Chamber of Commerce
- Kathleen McMullen – PCC Sylvania Campus
- Evelyn Murphy - At large
- Brian Newman – OHSU, Major employer, medical facility and education institution
- Arnie Panitch - TriMet Committee on Accessible Transit representative
- Elise Shearer - Tigard Transportation Advisory Committee
- Ian Stude – Portland State University
- Ibrahim Turki – Muslim Educational Trust

Engagement methods and activities

To maintain dialogue and goodwill from the project's extensive public engagement, as detailed above, Metro and other project partners have worked to maintain an ongoing presence in the SW Corridor community to supplement the required scoping period and public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The components of our public involvement process have evolved to meet the specific goals of the environmental review phase, and include the following, which are described further below:

- Formation of a Community Advisory Committee, which meets monthly
- Briefing books
- Project notification mailing
- Public forums
- Regular scheduled public meetings with neighborhood associations and other corridor stakeholders
- Ongoing public awareness events, including community group presentations and tabling events
- Door to door visits
- Individual meetings with potentially impacted property owners
- Outreach to comply with federal environmental justice guidelines

What we've heard

- Support for the project
- Questions about schedule, funding and process
- Suggestions for other alignment alternatives to avoid impacts to certain properties
- Concern about more people coming into established neighborhoods
- Interest in good bus service in the corridor
- Interest in how bus routes would connect with this system
- Concern about property impacts
- Questions about what other destinations were considered (Wilsonville, Beaverton, Sherwood, etc.)



Tools/Methods

Briefing books

In order to maintain public interest and engagement in the upcoming LPA selection, and prepare decision makers for the complex decisions included in the LPA, project partners have been releasing Briefing Books, each focusing on an alignment section. Through fall 2017, individual decision briefing books will be released to inform conversations about the key considerations for each major decision. The first release of each booklet is a draft. Because the environmental impact analysis is ongoing, briefing books will be updated as new information becomes available. The schedule for Briefing Book release is:

- May 2017 - Branch vs. Through configuration
- June - PCC Sylvania connection options, RR vs. I-5 alignment options in southern Tigard
- July - Downtown Tigard alignment options, Barbur vs. adjacent to I-5 alignment options
- August - Barbur vs. Naito alignment options, Marquam Hill connection options
- September - Updates on earlier briefings
- October - Updates on earlier briefings, Ross Island Bridgehead

Project notification mailer

Metro mailed a summary of the proposed light rail project to all mailing addresses within approximately 1200 feet of a proposed alignment (including residential and business tenants). In addition, property owners on Barbur Blvd. with a registered address elsewhere received a mailing. Also, all properties fronting on a station access project (mainly sidewalks and bike facilities) received a mailing. In all, around 11,000 mailers were sent out in late March 2017. A copy of the notification mailer is attached.

Public forums

Several general public meetings have occurred during the environmental review phase, which have allowed for public input, sharing of information and general project awareness.

What we did/Who we met with

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)



Residents, businesses and property owners along the SW Corridor

- DEIS Scoping Open House at Wilson HS – 9/22/2016
- Tigard Business breakfast meeting – 5/25/2017
- Portland Land Use meetings – 6/22/2017 at NUNM & 6/29/2017 at Multnomah Arts Center

Tools/Methods

Neighborhood and stakeholder meetings

Metro and project partners have maintained a consistent schedule of visiting neighborhood associations and other groups to provide project updates and the opportunity for questions and input. These include quarterly meetings with the SWNI Transportation Committee and frequent attendance at other gatherings. Meetings held in Portland alone during the environmental review phase include:

What we did/Who we met with

- SWNI Transportation Committee – 6/20/2016, 9/19/2016, 11/21/2016, 5/15/2017
- Far SW NA – 5/28/2016, 1/24/2017, 6/27/2017
- CPO 4M - 9/28/2016
- Westside Economic Alliance – 5/29/2016
- Hillsdale NA – 12/20/16
- CPO 4K – 1/24/2017
- South Portland Neighborhood Association – 9/6/2016
- West Portland Park – 7/14/2016, 9/8/2016, 2/9/2017
- Friends of Terwilliger and the Homestead Neighborhood Association (joint mtgs) – 9/12/2016, 11/1/2016
- City of Portland Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committees (joint meeting) – 03/14/2017
- Downtown Tigard Business Alliance – 6/28/2017
- Beveland Street Business meeting (Tigard) – 5/28/2017
- Jackson Middle School SUN school summer program – 7/20/2017

Public awareness events

As in earlier phases of the project, partner staff continue to attend public events in order to share general information on the project and answer questions. Past and future events include:

- September, 2016 – Downtown Tigard Street Fair, Tigard Farmer's Market, OHSU Farmer's Market
- October, 2016 – Hillsdale Farmer's Market
- June, 2017 – St Anthony's parish tabling (Tigard), Tigard Balloon Festival
- July, 2017 – Portland International Muslim Cultural Festival, Bridgeport Farmer's Market, Tigard Farmer's Market



Tools/Methods

Individual meetings with impacted property owners

Metro, TriMet and partner staff (including City of Portland staff) met with property owners, upon their request, to show them potential alignments and discuss possible impacts on their properties. The purpose is to provide owners current plans and share information about the process and the decision timeline. These meetings also initiate a discussion about possible ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to these properties. About a dozen of these meetings have occurred since May of 2017.

Project staff have also visited businesses districts where no business association exists, like on Barbur Blvd. Staff visited, emailed or called over 230 businesses and property owners on Barbur Blvd. to share information about the project.

What we did/Who we met with

Property owners along the SW Corridor



Environmental Justice Outreach

In the upcoming months, Metro and Trimet will identify and engage environmental justice populations in the SW Corridor which could be impacted by proposed alignments. So far, the project has aligned itself with St. Anthony's Church in Tigard where Vietnamese and Spanish-speaking services are popular to identify events to share project information. The mailer was translated into Spanish to share information with LEP populations in the area. Staff is partnering with the Muslim Educational Trust to co-host events with SW Portland Muslim community members. The first event together was the Muslim Cultural Festival held July 8, 2017. The event had a table with information about the project.

- St. Anthony's Church (outreach to Vietnamese and Spanish speaking parishioners)—6/11/17
- Muslim Cultural Festival—7/8/17



Collection of Southwest Corridor Stories and Metro Newsfeeds, June 2017-August 2017

More Than MAX: 4 Projects that Show the Vision for the Southwest Corridor

May 25, 2016 4:39pm

The Southwest Corridor Plan is more than light rail. It's an integrated plan for getting around in a growing, high-opportunity area of the Portland region. See a few other projects that are included.



Leaders Decide: Light Rail for Portland to Bridgeport Village, No PCC Tunnel

By Craig Beebe

May 10, 2016 8:36 a.m.

Leaders on the Southwest Corridor Plan steering committee voted to advance light rail instead of bus rapid transit between Portland, Tigard and Bridgeport Village in Tualatin. They also decided to stop studying a light rail tunnel to Portland Community College - Sylvania.



Southwest Corridor Leaders Meet Monday to Discuss Next Steps

June 9, 2016 12:44 p.m.

The Southwest Corridor Plan steering committee meets June 13 in Beaverton. Here's the agenda.



History Through a Lens: Glimpses of a Changing Southwest Corridor

By Justin Sherrill

June 7, 2016 10:30 a.m.

Take an interactive look at over a century of changes in communities along the Southwest Corridor.



Why Here? Why Now? 4 Facts About the Southwest Corridor

June 3, 2016 9 a.m.

Why are so many communities working together on the Southwest Corridor Plan? Here are four quick facts about the area, stretching from Portland to Tigard, Tualatin and Sherwood.

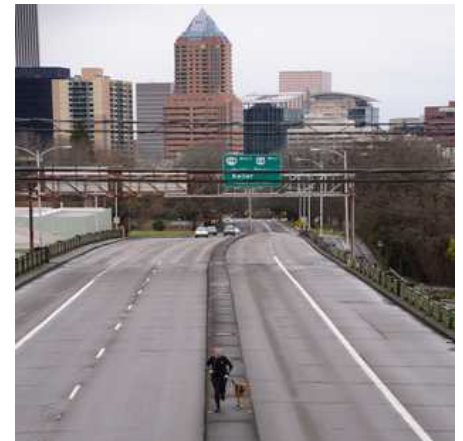


Looking Ahead: 10 Questions About the Southwest Corridor

By Craig Beebe

June 3, 2016 9 a.m.

The Portland region's next light rail line is in the works. And it's going southwest, from downtown Portland to Tigard and Tualatin. But there's a lot more than light rail ahead for this growing part of the region. Want to know what's up? Get answers to your questions here.



Apply Now: Southwest Corridor Community Advisory Committee Forming

Oct. 31, 2016 2:43 p.m.

As the proposed Southwest Corridor light rail project proceeds into a detailed environmental impact review, a committee of community members will play an important role in guiding its progress. Now is the time to apply to join.



Metro Receives \$895K Grant to Expand Jobs and Housing Opportunity in Southwest Corridor

Oct. 11, 2016 5:14 p.m.

The Federal Transit Administration has awarded Metro an \$895,000 grant to create an equitable economic development and housing strategy for the Southwest Corridor, where the region's next MAX line could connect Portland State University to Bridgeport Village as soon as 2025.



Comment Today to Shape Important Southwest Light Rail Study

Sept. 2, 2016 12:30 p.m.

A proposed light rail line in the Southwest Corridor is about to enter a new phase of study. You can help inform what's included, now through Oct. 3.



Southwest Corridor Update: Upcoming Comment Period Will Inform Environmental Review

Aug. 8, 2016 11:47 a.m.

The Southwest Corridor Plan is preparing to enter its next phase. Here's what you need to know to stay engaged.



Southwest Corridor Leaders Meet Monday to Discuss Next Steps

June 9, 2016 12:44 p.m.

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Southwest Corridor Updates: Refined Recommendations, What We Heard and a Chance to Serve

Nov. 16, 2016 4:46 p.m.

Here's an update on what's new with the Southwest Corridor Plan: Staff recommendations, comment summaries and an opportunity to be a voice for your community.



Southwest Light Rail Environmental Impact Review Set to Proceed

By Craig Beebe

Dec. 14, 2016 8:30 a.m.

A few weeks after winning narrow support from Tigard voters, a proposed Portland-to-Tualatin light rail project proceeded to its next stop Monday as local leaders finalized the range of routes, stations and related walking, biking and roadway projects to be studied in a federally-required environmental review.



Why They Serve: 3 Questions for Southwest Corridor Community Representatives

By Craig Beebe

Feb. 8, 2017 10:30 a.m.

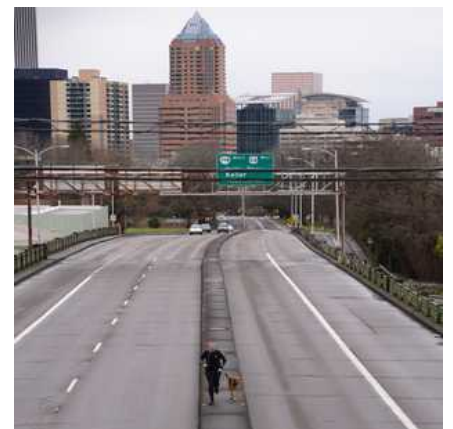
A new community advisory committee will play an important role in guiding the course of the Portland region's next MAX line. After the committee's first meeting this week, we checked in with a few members about why they serve and the perspective they'll bring.



Southwest Corridor Updates: Light Rail Study Continuing, Choices Ahead

March 28, 2017 7:43 a.m.

Get the latest on the Southwest Corridor Plan's ongoing light rail study.



In Their Words: 5 Young People Look to Southwest Corridor's Future

By Russ Doubleday

March 6, 2017 12:33 p.m.

We talked to middle and high school students from Portland and Tigard to hear their thoughts on their communities and the changes and opportunities Southwest Corridor light rail could bring.



In Their Words: Talking Transportation at Tigard's Supa Fresh Youth Farm

By Russ Doubleday

Feb. 15, 2017 11:30 a.m.

The young people who work at Supa Fresh Youth Farm live in communities around the region. For many, transportation is a challenge. In a recent interview, several Supa Fresh workers shared their perspectives on the community at the farm and in Tigard, hopes for future transportation in the area, and how future students may benefit from the Southwest Corridor light rail project, which is proposed to begin service in 2025.



1000 Friends of Oregon, Metro Collaborate to Prepare Community Leaders in Land Use Advocacy

By Guadalupe Triana

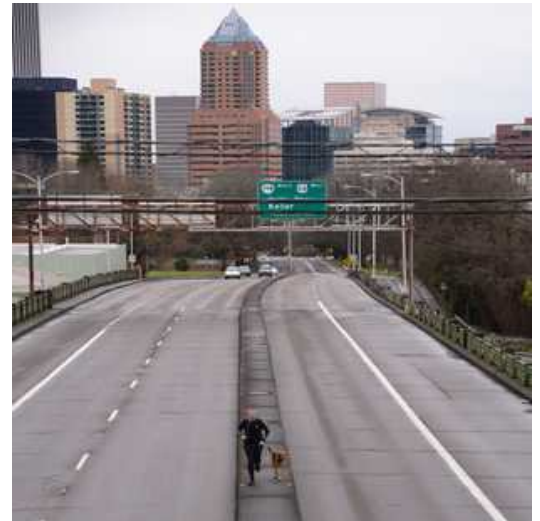
March 17, 2017 4:33 p.m. At 1000 Friends of Oregon, the Land Use Leadership Initiative has become a useful way for the land use-advocacy nonprofit and Metro to introduce more ways for leaders to gain a better understanding of what Metro is responsible for as a way to become effective advocates.



Southwest Corridor Updates: Light Rail Study Continuing, Choices Ahead

March 28, 2017 7:43 a.m.

Get the latest on the Southwest Corridor Plan's ongoing light rail study.



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Southwest Corridor - Earned media coverage

June 7, 2016 – July 31, 2017

Publication	Date	Headline	Author
Daily Journal of Commerce	6.6.2016	<u>Changes in store for Southwest Corridor</u>	Brian Campbell
BTA blog	5.27.16	<u>Southwest Corridor Open House weigh in</u>	Sarah Newsome
BTA blog	6.8.2016	<u>Weigh in: Walking and biking in the Southwest Corridor</u>	Lauren Hugel
Portland Tribune	6.8.16	<u>Tigard eyes November vote on Southwest Corridor line</u>	Mark Miller
BTA blog	6.10.16	<u>Looking ahead: 10 questions about the Southwest Corridor</u>	Metro
Willamette Week	6.15.16	<u>Portland Voters' Support Is Soft for Light Rail to Tualatin</u>	WW Staff
Portland Tribune	6.16.16	<u>TriMet: Tigard voters could kill southwest MAX line in November</u>	Jim Redden
Tigard Tualatin Times	6.29.16	<u>Tigard to vote on authorizing Southwest Corridor project</u>	Mark Miller
Oregonian	6.30.16	<u>Tigard vote could decide fate of Southwest Corridor light rail</u>	Elliot Njus
Tigard Tualatin Times	8.11.16	<u>Southwest Corridor plan enters environmental review phase</u>	Ravleen Kaur
Portland Tribune	8.11.16	<u>Talk of 'Portland creep' comes home</u>	Jim Redden
Tigard Tualatin Times	8.26.16	<u>Mayor Cook chairing 'yes' campaign for Tigard light rail</u>	Mark Miller
Portland Tribune	8.30.16	<u>My View: Tigard mayor endorses MAX expansion</u>	John Cook

Tigard Tualatin Times	9.06.16	<u>Public input sought on Southwest Corridor project</u>	Jim Redden
Publication	Date	Headline	Author
Portland Tribune	9.08.16	<u>SW Corridor Project seeks public input</u>	Jim Redden
Tigard Tualatin Times	10.06.16	<u>Give Tigard residents a chance to vote on MAX light rail option</u>	Craig Dirksen
Metro Newsfeed	10.11.16	<u>Metro receives \$895K grant to expand jobs and housing opportunity in Southwest Corridor</u>	Craig Beebe
Portland Tribune	10.12.16	<u>Feds approve \$895,000 for Southwest Corridor planning</u>	Jim Redden
Oregonian	10.19.16	<u>Much depends upon Tigard's light rail measure, which voters should pass: Editorial Endorsement 2016</u>	The Oregonian Editorial Board
Oregonian	10.26.16	<u>Tigard voters will decide on Southwest Corridor light-rail project</u>	Elliot Njus
KOIN 6 News	10.26.16	<u>Fate of SW Corridor MAX line in hands of Tigard voters</u>	Lisa Balick and KOIN 6 News Staff
Tigard Tualatin Times	10.27.16	<u>Tigard should support Measure 34-255</u>	Pamplin Editorial Board
Oregon Public Broadcasting	11.2.16	<u>Tigard Voters Hold Keys To Southwest Light Rail Line</u>	Rob Manning
KOIN	11.08.16	<u>Tigard light rail expansion too close to call</u>	KOIN 6 News Staff
Portland Monthly	11.09.16	<u>Could Tigard's light rail measure end up in recount?</u>	Mark Miller
OPB	11.09.16	<u>Tigard Voters Saying Yes To Light Rail Plan</u>	Ryan Haas
Oregon Business	11.10.16	<u>Editor's Note: Transit and Infrastructure in the Spotlight</u>	Linda Baker

KOIN 6 News	11.14.16	<u>Tigard light rail vote still too close to call</u>	Eileen Park
Portland Tribune	11.14.16	<u>Tigard light-rail measure passing by more comfortable margin after Monday update</u>	Mark Miller
Publication	Date	Headline	Author
Oregonian	11.16.16	<u>Tigard voters say 'yes' to light rail -- by just 130 votes</u>	Betsy Hammond
Willamette Week	11.16.16	<u>Light-Rail Plans for Bridgeport Village and Tualatin Stay Alive—by Just 139 Votes</u>	Nigel Jaquiss
DJC	11.15.16	<u>Suburban light-rail plans on track</u>	Chuck Slothower
KATU.com	11.17.16	<u>MAX line project from Portland to Tigard approved by narrow majority of voters</u>	KATU.com Staff
Hillsboro Tribune	11.17.16	<u>Will Washington County receive a new MAX light rail line?</u>	Mark Miller
Portland Tribune	10.28.16	<u>Washington County certifies passage of Tigard light rail measure</u>	Mark Miller
Willamette Week	10.28.16	<u>Washington County Elections Office Certifies Tigard's (Extremely Narrow) Vote to Proceed With Light Rail</u>	Nigel Jaquiss
Portland Tribune	12.13.16	<u>Hunziker station, Sylvania tram trimmed from Southwest Corridor project</u>	Mark Miller
Mass Transit	3/2/2017	<u>University of Oregon to Partner with TriMet and Agency Partners on Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project</u>	TriMet
Oregonian	March 22, 2017	<u>Trump budget proposal would cut program that's fueled Portland's transit expansion</u>	Elliot Njus
KATU	March 29th 2017	<u>Metro plans public input into Southwest Corridor light rail expansion</u>	KATU news
Portland Tribune	April 2, 2017	<u>Council to consider SW Corridor affordable housing grant</u>	Jim Redden

Portland Tribune	May 4, 2017	<u>MAX-funding package deal with freeways sparks controversy</u>	Jim Redden
Southwest Examiner	May, 2017	<u>Advisory committee considers community development along future light rail line</u>	Erik Vidstrand
Portland Tribune	July 12, 2017	<u>Southwest Corridor: Spiff up or tear up Barbur?</u>	Dana Haynes