

South Corridor Project Update Phase II: Portland – Milwaukie Light Rail

PROJECT PARTNERS
Metro
Oregon Department of Transportation
TriMet
Clackamas County
Multnomah County
City of Portland
City of Milwaukie
City of Oregon City

Phase II of the South Corridor Project will refine and construct the publicly adopted light rail alignment between Portland and Milwaukie to provide better access and mobility to a rapidly growing part of the metropolitan region. Earlier public study evaluated a number of options including bus rapid transit and commuter rail to address problems resulting from increasing traffic congestion and a lack of transportation choices for southeast neighborhoods. The community chose a light rail alignment between Portland and Milwaukie that will provide a connection to the existing MAX light rail system and easy access to places such as the airport, Beaverton and Gresham.

The South Corridor Project is a partnership led by Metro with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), TriMet, Clackamas and Multnomah counties and the cities of Portland, Milwaukie and Oregon City.

Beginning April 2007, the South Corridor Project will prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) to analyze the design, ridership, costs of construction, engineering, environmental impacts, traffic circulation and effect on neighborhoods. The SDEIS should be completed in the summer of 2008.

This analysis ensures that the benefits and impacts of the proposed alignment are fully understood and that the public has a chance to provide input on detailed design and project funding. Depending on local and federal approvals, construction could begin as early as 2011. Portland-Milwaukie MAX will be funded by federal and local dollars.

Studies for the South Corridor Project began in 1999. Phase I of the project is under construction on the downtown bus mall and along I-205 to Clackamas Town Center. Phase II will provide additional environmental analysis of the alignment between Portland and Milwaukie because areas and conditions may have changed and have not been examined recently.



Preliminary review of locally preferred alternative

Before undertaking the SDEIS, the South Corridor Project is reviewing the light rail alignment as defined by the community in the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) adopted in 2002. The review includes examining the cost effectiveness of the LPA and conditions that have changed since then. At present, the project team is initiating early conversations with stakeholders along the alignment to inform them of the start of the SDEIS and its scope and to obtain input on the LPA. The project team will use what it has learned from these conversations to help identify all design options to include in the SDEIS in addition to the LPA.



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Continued

SDEIS TIMELINE



| | Winter 2006-07 | Spring 2007 to Summer 2008 | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------------|------------------|--|
| SDEIS development | Preliminary review of locally preferred alternative | Confirm locally preferred alternative/design options | Evaluate impacts | Document results | Selection of refined locally preferred alternative |
| Public involvement opportunities | Stakeholders conversations and meetings | Public meetings | Neighborhood updates | Open houses | Public hearing |

With new developments on the east and west side of the Willamette River around the Central Eastside and South Waterfront areas, consideration will be given to current and future transportation needs and opportunities in relation to the LPA. The South Corridor Project will also review the results of the Milwaukie Working Group from 2005. Because the Kellogg Lake site recommended by the Working Group is no longer viable for transit use, the proposed southern end terminus and park and ride locations need to be reviewed. The SDEIS will include the LPA, Working Group alignment, and other possible design options.

Public involvement and decision-making

The South Corridor Project will provide opportunities for public input throughout the SDEIS. Metro will maintain a project mailing list and communicate regularly with all affected parties along the alignment including businesses, property owners, neighborhoods, institutions and interested parties. In addition, a citizen committee will be formed to advise

the South Corridor Project Steering Committee on a regular basis. Information and updates will be provided at open houses and public presentations, in newsletters and on Metro's web site.

The South Corridor Project Steering Committee is responsible for making final recommendations regarding key decisions for the SDEIS. The Steering Committee is comprised of elected representatives from Clackamas and Multnomah counties; the cities of Milwaukie, Portland and Oregon City; and Metro, and executives from TriMet and the ODOT. This group will receive and review recommendations from the citizen committee and technical staff. Citizen committee and Steering Committee meetings are open to the public.

For more information

To learn more about the project or be added to the mailing list, call (503) 797-1755 or send an e-mail to trans@metro.dst.or.us. For information on Phase I of the South Corridor Project, visit www.metro-region.org.

Metro

People places • open spaces

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

Your Metro representatives

Metro Council President – David Bragdon
Metro Councilors – Rod Park, deputy council president, District 1; Brian Newman, District 2; Carl Hosticka, District 3; Kathryn Harrington, District 4; Rex Burkholder, District 5; Robert Liberty, District 6.
Auditor – Suzanne Flynn

Metro's web site

www.metro-region.org