

Southwest Corridor Transit Project Land Use (LC 1762)

TriMet and Metro, in coordination with Washington County and the cities of Portland, Tigard, Beaverton, King City, Durham, Tualatin and Sherwood are developing a new light rail line from downtown Portland to Tigard and Tualatin in the I-5/99W corridor. Starting with the Westside Light Rail project in the 1990s, the Legislature has authorized an expedited land use process to allow projects to successfully compete for Federal funding.

The Problem:

- The 1996 legislative authorization allowing an expedited land use review process is limited to the South/North Corridor, and does not extend to the area of the SW Corridor Light Rail project.
- Light rail construction projects are complex, multi-jurisdictional undertakings. Competition for scarce Federal funds is fierce, and more than a billion dollars of Federal funding could be jeopardized if local land use approvals are delayed.

The Solution:

- Using previous authorizations as a template, LC 1762 will reauthorize the expedited land use review process for the SW Corridor Light Rail project.
- This reauthorization facilitates public engagement and enables local sponsors to better pursue Federal funds.
- If successful, this project is expected to bring in ~\$1.5b in Federal funding.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why does TriMet need this authorization now?

- The SW Corridor Light Rail project is nearing a point in design where Federal authorization will be necessary. Waiting until the next long session could delay the project up to 2 years, increasing construction costs and uncertainty.

Can the SW Corridor Project proceed without this authorization?

- Possibly, but it becomes more difficult and risky. This legislation provides assurances that the scope won't change, that the project can't be held up indefinitely in the courts after collective decisions have been made, and it reduces risks of cost overruns.

Questions: Contact Aaron Deas at deasa@trimet.org or (503) 888-5067.

Supporters of the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project



City of Durham

City of King City



City of Sherwood



