

**CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Staff Presentation Worksheet**

Presentation Date: 11/10/09    Time: 3:00 pm    Length: 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Coordination of the Portland Milwaukie Light Rail Project with the Trolley Trail Project

Department: North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD)

Presenters: Gary Barth and Michelle Healy, NCPRD, Leah Robbins, TriMet, Bridget Wiegart and Brian Monberg, Metro, Dan Johnson, Clackamas County

**POLICY QUESTION**

The following is an update on the coordination of the Portland Milwaukie Light Rail and Trolley Trail projects. NCPRD and partners would like feedback on any concerns or questions the Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has related to these efforts to date. Future study sessions will be necessary to consider recommendations for action on specific elements as discussed below.

**ISSUE & BACKGROUND**

***Trolley Trail Project***

North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) is working to design and build the future Trolley Trail. The Trolley Trail is an approximately 6 mile bicycle and pedestrian trail that connects the City of Milwaukie to the City of Gladstone and the neighborhoods in between. The trail follows the historic streetcar line that operated in the area from 1893 until 1968. The master plan for the trail was adopted by Clackamas County and Metro in 2004. Preliminary engineering and design of the project began in the summer of 2006. Since then, NCPRD has been meeting with neighbors, area businesses and agency partners to work through design and permitting of the trail. Staff anticipates completing design for the entire trail by early 2010. NCPRD plans to bid the Trolley Trail construction next spring, with construction anticipated to begin by late summer 2010 and completion in 2011. The total cost to develop the trail, including design and engineering, is estimated to be \$4.5 million dollars.

***Light Rail Project***

The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project (LRT) is a 7.3 mile light rail extension from Portland State University to Park Avenue in Clackamas County. The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project is currently in preliminary engineering and construction is planned to begin in 2011/12. TriMet is managing the design and construction of the LRT, while Metro is completing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) required to build the project.

The LRT and Trolley Trail projects are co-located for approximately 0.72 mile between the railroad trestle at 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in the City of Milwaukie and Park Avenue in Clackamas County

(see attached map). As a result, NCPRD has been coordinating with Tri-Met, Metro, Clackamas County, Milwaukie, ODOT and other partners to minimize impacts to the Trolley Trail while building the LRT. Some of the specific items of coordination include:

- Right of way – The proposed LRT is designed to be located between the trail and Highway 99E (McLoughlin Blvd). In order to do this, Trimet will need to secure rights from NCPRD to use the existing trail right of way, and property from some private property owners for LRT and the displaced trail. This will likely result in a sale and/or swap of property interests between NCPRD and Trimet. At this time, NCPRD has stated that the minimum width necessary to accommodate the trail next to LRT is 22 feet. This would accommodate a 12 foot wide trail, with 2 foot shoulders on both sides, and an additional 6 foot wide planter strip between the trail and tracks (see attached graphic). In areas where more property is available NCPRD is requesting a larger buffer. Information related to property negotiations will be provided to the Board during future executive sessions as available.
- Design – The Trolley Trail was originally planned as a linear park and trail corridor. The introduction of the LRT area significantly changes the trail user experience in this section of the trail. NCPRD is working with partners to design the trail as close to the original intent as envisioned in the master plan, while still accommodating the LRT. Good urban design will be essential for this to be successful and NCPRD has requested Trimet provide resources for this effort. At this time elements of discussion include lighting, stormwater treatment, landscaping, fencing, intersection treatments, user safety and long term maintenance needs.
- Construction – The Trolley Trail is anticipated to be completed in 2011 while light rail construction is not planned to begin until 2011/12. Given this time line, Trimet has included construction of the trail adjacent to the LRT (from River Road to Park Avenue) in the LRT project. The partners have considered a variety of options for building this section of the trail sooner. However, none have proven to be feasible. Interim trail routes for this section are being discussed by both projects. Public feedback supports waiting to build this section of the trail, rather than seeing government resources wasted by Trimet having to re-build the trail when LRT is constructed.
- Permitting – Metro is currently completing the FEIS for the LRT project. One of the important elements of this work is the analysis of the project's impacts on park resources (4F analysis). The Trolley Trail is an identified 4F resource. Metro will be requesting concurrence, likely in the form of a letter, from NCPRD that the analysis is acceptable and the proposed mitigations to the Trolley Trail are sufficient. Metro anticipates releasing a draft of the FEIS document in the next few months, including the 4F analysis. Staff will evaluate the 4F analysis and provide a recommendation to Board when it becomes available.

#### **QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION**

Does the Board have questions or concerns about the coordination of the Trolley Trail and LRT projects? Are there specific items of concern that project partners should consider?

**OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

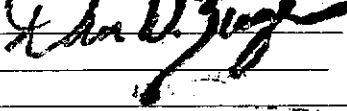
Options will be presented at future study sessions on specific items as available.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff respectfully recommends continued coordination of the Trolley Trail and LRT projects to provide the best possible facility for trail users, transit riders and the community.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_



For more information on this issue or attachments please contact Michelle Healy at 503-742-4356 or email [michellehea@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:michellehea@co.clackamas.or.us)