

# First U.S.-made streetcars will carry union label

The nation's first U.S.-manufactured modern streetcars will be union-built at Oregon Iron Works.

At a press conference Jan. 26 at the company's headquarters in Clackamas, company officials, politicians and union leaders announced that Oregon Iron Works, through its subsidiary United Streetcar, LLC, had secured a \$4 million contract to manufacture a prototype streetcar for the City of Portland.

"It will create dozens of good union jobs," said Mike Lappier, business manager of Iron Workers Shopmen's Local 516, which represents workers at Oregon Iron Works.

Lappier joined Gov. Ted Kulongoski, U.S. Reps. Peter DeFazio, Dar-

lene Hooley and Earl Blumenauer, Portland Mayor Tom Potter, Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams, Clackamas County commissioners, and TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen for the announcement.

Funding for the project was secured as a \$4 million line-item in the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) bill, which authorizes the federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the five-year period 2005-2009.

United Streetcar LLC will build a prototype streetcar based on the model currently manufactured in the Czech Republic by Skoda, which makes cars

for Portland's streetcar system.

If interest in streetcars develops, United Streetcar could be supplying them to cities across North America.

"We believe there are 80 cities interested in streetcar systems," said DeFazio, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Transportation. "The resurgence of streetcars throughout the United States will play an increasing role in urban transit."

According to Chandra Brown, vice president of Oregon Iron Works, the project will create 20 new jobs, with the potential for hundreds more as national demand increases.

"We intend to provide modern, efficient American-produced streetcars, and to be a pioneering force in increasing urban transit options throughout the United States," Brown said.

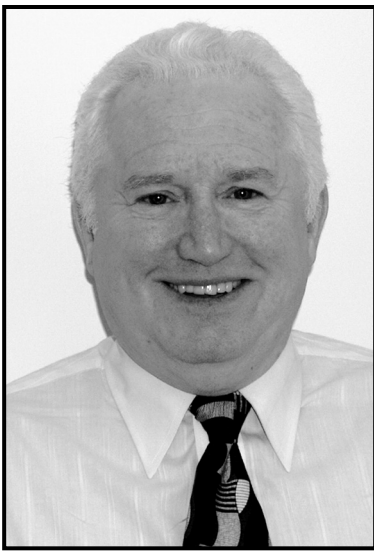
Using United Streetcar, a domestic

company, means the streetcar would comply with all federal Buy American rules.

"This project is a shining example of how when we come together across public and private sector lines, that we can deliver economic benefits for businesses, individual Oregonians and our communities," Kulongoski said.

When the prototype streetcar is completed it will be added to the Portland Streetcar fleet, increasing capacity and working towards the expansion of streetcar service to the Eastside, Lake Oswego, and city-wide.

Oregon Iron Works is a specialized fabrication and manufacturing company that produces components for the U.S. and foreign governments, as well as dams, bridges and other civil engineering and commercial projects. The company employs over 400.



TOM GUNN

## School District hires former union official for labor relations job

Tom Gunn, a former grievance director for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 and a business agent for Oregon Council 75 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, has been hired as director of labor relations for Portland Public Schools.

Gunn worked for AFSCME during the 1980s, leaving in 1991 to accept a governor's appointment to the Oregon Workers Compensation Board. He served there until 1996. He then joined the Local 555 staff before leaving to take a job as employment relations manager for Marion County in Salem.

Gunn has a full agenda at the school district, where the 15-union District Council of Unions has been working under the terms of a contract that expired in 2006. Negotiations also are ongoing with classified employees and cafeteria workers. The Oregon Education Association contract doesn't open until 2008, and bargaining has yet to begin for school custodians, who were reinstated last year by order of the Oregon Supreme Court.

"People at the School District are interested in solving problems, not creating them," Gunn said. "The direction for me is to build a collaborative relationship with the unions."

Gunn, 58, lives in Hillsboro with his wife, Pearl, a retired school teacher.

## Kaiser gets okay to build new hospital

Kaiser Permanente has received approval from Oregon state regulators to build a \$285 million hospital on a 15-acre site in the Tanasbourne area of Washington County.

Kaiser has historically used union contractors and workers on its construction projects.

The 138-bed, 380,000-square-foot facility will house surgical suites, an intensive care unit, an emergency department, a labor and delivery unit and a pharmacy. The campus will also include a specialty care medical office and outpatient surgery center.

State law charges the Oregon Department of Human Services with reviewing proposals for new hospitals and nursing facilities to ensure health-care consumers don't pay for the cost of unnecessary facilities.

The hospital is projected to be complete in 2011.

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