

Labor groups oppose Tigard ballot measure targeting high-capacity transit

Two large labor organizations are opposing a ballot measure in Tigard that they say is designed to cripple the Southwest Corridor Plan — a high-capacity transit connection between Portland, Tigard and Tualatin.

Delegates to the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council (CPBCTC) and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council voted last month to oppose Measure 34-210. Ballots in the vote-by-mail special election will be counted the evening of March 11. It is the only item on the ballot.

Union officials believe backers of

PERC gathering March 20

The 28th annual Public Employment Relations Conference (PERC) will be held Thursday, March 20, at the Salem Conference Center. PERC is a gathering of public sector labor relations professionals from across Oregon, including attorneys, neutrals, and representatives from both unions and management.

For more details and registration information visit lerc.uoregon.edu or contact Helen Moss at hmoss@uoregon.edu.

On March 11: Say 'NO' to Tigard Measure 34-210

the measure arranged for a special election (rather than wait until the May primary) in hopes that fewer residents will turn out to vote, thus giving it a better chance of passing.

If passed, the measure will make it the official policy of the City of Tigard to oppose the Southwest Corridor Plan unless it is specifically approved by voters. It will also require the City to send annual letters to every state and federal elected official from Oregon reminding them of their opposition to high-capacity transit. Unless there is a specific measure passed by the voters first, the City couldn't amend its comprehensive plan or land-use regulations to prepare for any transit project, bus or rail.

Metro, TriMet, Portland, Tigard, Tualatin and other area cities have been working on the Southwest Corridor Plan for years. The idea is to bring a high-capacity transit line from Portland to Tualatin, either by MAX light rail or bus rapid transit.

Willy Myers, executive secretary-treasurer of CPBCTC, said backers of the measure are anti-light-rail conservatives, libertarians and Tea Partiers who are trying to gain a foothold in Washington County. One of the backers is the Oregon Transformation Project, an organization that helped elect conservatives John Ludlow and Tootie Smith to the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners.

"Their stated strategy is to make an anchor city oppose light rail to stop the funding and thus kill a \$2 billion union construction project," Myers told delegates to the NOLC meeting Feb. 24. "It's time for labor to hold the line and defeat this poorly written and community-damaging ballot measure."

The Tigard City Council, Tigard Chamber of Commerce, the Westside Economic Alliance, the Oregon Environmental Council and dozens of other groups also oppose Measure 34-210.

The Tigard City Council, which was unanimous in its opposition, pointed out that Tigard's current city charter already gives residents a transit vote. The charter states that voters must approve any new city fees or revenues for light rail construction in Tigard.

Local Motion

January 2014

A list of Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces deciding whether to be union-represented — as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

Voting in union elections

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Yes	No
1/24	Hydro-Temp Mechanical (Wilsonville) Sheet Metal Local 16	8	16

Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
Jaspers Foods Management (Wilsonville) Bakers Local 114 DECERT	5
Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (Corvallis) SEIU Local 49	60

LEGEND

: workers will be union-represented : workers will be on their own

DECERT : A decertification election occurs when some union-represented workers declare that the union no longer has majority support. A 'yes' vote is a vote for the union.

Union members pass the hat, collect \$450 for slain worker

Delegates to the Northwest Oregon Labor Council "passed the hat" at the Feb. 24 monthly meeting and collected \$450 for the memorial fund of AF-SCME member Grady Waxenfelter.



GRADY WAXENFELTER

Waxenfelter, a Clackamas County

weighmaster and a member of AF-SCME Local 350, which represents Clackamas County workers, was shot and killed Feb. 6 after pulling over a commercial logging truck with no license plate.

As of press time, the alleged killer was still at large. Police have identified the suspect as Dirck Morgan White, 41, of Washington state. White has a long criminal record in Washington.

Waxenfelter, 47, a resident of Estacada, had been a Local 350 member since 1987, when he started with the county as a mechanic. He was promoted to senior mechanic in 1999, and

has been a county weighmaster since 2005.

Under Oregon law, weighmasters have the same authority as police officers to issue citations and even make arrests.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office has announced a \$7,500

reward for information leading to an arrest, with \$5,000 coming from the county and an additional \$2,500 donated by O'Malley Brothers Trucking, where the suspect was employed.

Local 350 has established a memorial fund to benefit Waxenfelter's family. He has a wife and three grown children.

Donations to the fund can be made to: AFSCME Waxenfelter Memorial Fund, c/o Sterling Bank, 25529 SW Glen Dr., Wilsonville, OR 97070. You can also make a donation at any Sterling Bank branch; the account number is 9944634964.

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Free tax preparation available

Labor's Community Service Agency is spreading the word that low- to moderate-income Oregonians can have their income tax returns prepared free by trained volunteers statewide. CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Oregon, a non-profit group in partnership with AARP Tax-Aide, supports free tax preparation in 32 counties in Oregon at more than 140 tax sites.

Many people who earn very little may be eligible for a refund. Tax credits

that many could qualify for are the Federal and Oregon Earned Income Tax Credit, the Federal Child Tax Credit, and the Oregon Working Family Child Care Credit.

Trained volunteers will help taxpayers sort through their questions and provide assistance.

Free tax preparation sites are available statewide. For more information or to find a location nearest you, call 2-1-1, or visit www.cashoregon.org.