

Light rail or rapid transit would follow 99W from Portland to Tualatin

SW CORRIDOR PLAN

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

In a clearly pro forma vote last month, Portland metro area govern-

ment officials approved further study of a light rail or "bus rapid transit" route from downtown Portland to Tualatin via Tigard, as well as local transit projects on or near the route.

The decision was made at a July 22 meeting in Tigard by the Southwest Corridor Plan Steering Committee,

consisting of representatives of affected local governments and public agencies such as TriMet. It followed staff recommendations.

Metro had earlier considered a wide variety of bus rapid transit options, including one that would go as far southwest as Sherwood.

Last month's resolution specified that if this mode is selected, 50 to 100 percent of the route would be along an exclusive right of way. This would increase the speed of this service, but also increase the cost of the project and necessitate the acquisition of

private property.

Metro will also be studying some 81 transportation-related projects, culled from a list of 500, along the route that local jurisdictions or communities have called for.

TriMet Executive Director Neil McFarlane said that some of the improvements, including more frequent service by his agency, might come in the short term. "There's a lot of demand we can meet with a little more service," he said.

In contrast, Southwest Neighbor-
(Continued on Page 6)



Local government officials still haven't decided between light rail and rapid transit for the Southwest Corridor Plan. (photos courtesy of TriMet)

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