

**SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN**

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that encompasses transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian solutions.

“The scoping period ended in early October,” Metro project director Chris Ford said as he briefed the committee. “My staff proposes major recommendations which include Marquam Hill and [Portland Community College Sylvania] connections, light rail alignment, and station options.”

According to Ford, after the steering committee takes action on the recommendations in December, Metro, TriMet, and the Federal Transit Administration will then begin assessing the impacts and benefits of the proposed alternatives.

On Marquam Hill, one option of an elevator and bridge concept with on-grade walkways to connect Oregon Health & Science University with light rail, was recommended. Erin Kehe, project communication specialist explained this would be the least complex option.

“This would involve a possible trench



Changes to quiet Southwest 53rd Avenue from Barbur Boulevard, across Capitol Highway and up to PCC Sylvania are being discussed in relation to a proposed light rail line and connections to the college. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

[instead of a tunnel],” Kehe explained. “It would also be the most cost efficient and least intrusive.”

PCC Sylvania’s connection is to provide convenient, fast, and reliable access between the campus and the light rail alignment. The most basic element of this goal is to provide safe and cost effective means of transportation.

Mechanized options, such as rapid

transit, aerial tram, and gondola options are off the table. Instead, bicycle and pedestrian improvements via a transfer at the Southwest 53rd Avenue station are preferred, as well as TriMet bus shuttles and possible smaller shuttles.

Kathleen McMullen, manager of transportation and parking services at Portland Community College, spoke about sustainability and affordability.

“Our main issue,” McMullen said, “is the administrations concerns about reliability and students’ time. Many of students travel over an hour from downtown alone to get to class.

“We are looking at consolidating class schedules so students don’t need to come to campus five days a week,” she said. “We’d eventually like light rail to come up to the campus.”

Metro is forming a community advisory committee made up of neighbors, business owners, and commuters. Applications went out last month and are currently being reviewed.

The advisory committee will advise the steering committee in the selection of the light rail route, station areas, park-and-ride size and location, and related bike, walk and roadway projects.

Members of the advisory committee will be asked to serve for 12 to 16 months beginning in January.

The steering committee will meet next on Monday, Dec. 12, from 9–11 a.m. at the Tigard City Hall, 13125 SW Hall Blvd. The public is invited to provide testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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The logical answer, of course, is “none”. But this is clearly not a matter of logic; it is a matter of emotion. And it’s one of the most useless, self-destructive emotions that humans can experience—envy.

The completely illusory harm that seems to be at work here is that the person in the \$300,000 house feels injured by the presence of a million-dollar home on the block.

This persistent modern desire for a general leveling has some underlying drivers that its encouragers and enablers would prefer not be discussed.

Which is all the more reason that such discussions should be on the table.

We have allowed ourselves to be steadily and increasingly bullied by a growing cadre of people who apparently cannot stand the idea that some people might have more, or do better, than others.

They seem willing to trample all over others’ basic liberties in order to enforce their sick idea of “sameness”, or whatever they would call it, in the citizenry. “Monstrosities,” indeed.

W. Brewster Gillett  
Southwest Portland

**Presidential election prompts local student protests, possibly vandalism**

An undetermined number of Wilson High school students, along with other school students throughout the area, left class on Monday, Nov. 14 to protest the presidential election.

Wilson Principal Brian Chatard wrote on the school’s website that is was his first obligation as a school principal to defend everyone’s rights, regardless of their views on tax policy, trade agreements, or environmental regulations.

“[Everyone will] be treated with dignity and respect in my school,” Chatard wrote. “So while we may debate and respectfully disagree on many elements

of our nation’s policies, when it comes to hate speech, discrimination, and a stated agenda that is harmful to youth, there can be no debate, as these are issues that as a principal I cannot and will not accept or ignore.”

According to Beth Madison, principal of Robert Gray Middle School, seven windows and a door identification card reader were broken at the campus by vandals. It wasn’t clear who was involved or if it was related to the election protests.

“This further demonstrates that is not a safe time for students to choose to leave campus to engage in protests,” Madison wrote to parents. “You will know best how to handle this conversation in your own home and your help is appreciated.”

– Erik Vidstrand

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