

Advisory committee considers community development along future light rail line

SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN

By Erik Vidstrand
The Southwest Portland Post

Public comment opens each community advisory committee meeting of the Southwest Corridor light rail line. David George, a property owner on Barbur Boulevard, was first to speak at the April meeting.

"I heard that the Trump administration was canceling funding for federal projects," he said.

"We'll have to wait and see," said Eryn Kehe, Metro project spokesperson. "We're taking one step at a time."

Fifty percent of the funding for this project would come from the federal government.

Another property owner asked when owners would know if their property would be taken (purchased) for the light rail project under laws relating to eminent domain.

Kehe said that the area is being studied with an environmental impact study.

"The study will be released at end of year," Kehe said.

Eric Engstrom, a principal planner for the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, said that most committee members considered transportation issues the highest concern of the project.

"Various land use plans are already in place," Engstrom said. "Many of you were involved with the Barbur Concept Plan in which engineers focused on redevelopment and transportation routes.

"These were led by Metro, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Multnomah and Washington counties."

Surveys from years past suggested medium level development was the favorite with mixed-use buildings. Engstrom showed various road designs such as parallel, or

frontage roads, main streets, and perpendicular streets.

One committee member reminded the group that other plans have been designed: a Barbur Boulevard streetscape review in 1999, the Southwest Community Plan in 2000, and a high-crash corridor safety project along Barbur Boulevard in 2012.

"We found that this corridor is auto-oriented," Engstrom said. "Few stop to shop and stroll and there are lots of gaps in sidewalks.

"Additionally, there is a soft lease and rental market in the area."

On top of all of this, the report found, topography, stormwater, and pedestrian and bicyclist safety are inadequate.

"Our goal is to turn Barbur Boulevard into a safe, vibrant, and enjoyable place to live, work, shop, and learn," Engstrom said.

According to project managers, seven different focus areas are under design.

One of these is the Southwest Kelly Street area in South Waterfront. This area will improve connections to Oregon Health & Science University and the National College of Natural Medicine and to redesign the Ross Island bridgehead area.

In the South Portland neighborhood, Southwest Hamilton and Corbett streets is a possible main street keeping in mind the historic nature of Lair Hill.

The Woods is the third focus. "This area would include a park-like setting, recreation area, and involve traffic calming," Engstrom said.

Metro planners are proposing a perpendicular street at the intersection of Terwilliger and Barbur boulevards with



TriMet's MAX Orange light rail line train stops in Milwaukie. (Photo illustration courtesy of Metro)

development centering on the Fred Meyer supermarket. Stormwater and wildlife enhancement projects south of the grocery store would be included.

The Safeway supermarket will anchor a new main street area at Capitol Hill Road. Barbur Boulevard Rentals is for sale and will be eventually redeveloped.

At 19th Avenue, the Golden Touch Restaurant will be torn down to make way for a large apartment complex featuring Natural Grocers store as retail anchor. The Tryon Creek headwaters near 26th Avenue is another focus area.

"Will this area have more housing or commercial property?" asked a member of the audience.

"Those details don't go that far," Kehe said. "It will most likely be a mixed-use design. We'll have a housing person come back to respond."

The Crossroads, (Capitol Highway, Barbur Boulevard, Taylors Ferry Road, and Interstate 5), will have freeway onramps reconfigured, have a new Barbur Transit Center, and develop a town center which would include 7 to 10 story buildings.

"This area will see major bike and pedestrian improvements," Engstrom ensured. "This will tie in configurations to the Southwest highway project."

A smaller scale project at 53rd Avenue will have pedestrian and bike improvements and better

access to the Sylvania Campus of Portland Community College. "But 53rd (Avenue) will keep its barrier at Barbur (Boulevard)," Engstrom said.

Several committee members raised concerns about access to Hillsdale and Multnomah Village. Kehe explained that this had been vetted years ago with each community and that the main development would take place along Barbur Boulevard. Bus routes will be enhanced in each of these communities.

Project construction is scheduled to begin in 2021 and will last approximately four years,

Community Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled the first Monday of the month at the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Highway, starting at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and a comment period is scheduled for the first 10 minutes.

The next (completely separate) Southwest Corridor Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, at 9 a.m. at the Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave.

Advertise in *The Post!*

Call Don at
503-244-6933



POST A-Z BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY 503-244-6933

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
503-246-2564

www.mvdentalcare.com

7717 SW 34th Avenue • Portland, OR 97219
(Multnomah Village • SW Capitol Highway & 34th Ave.)

Your SW Portland neighbor

Nate Jensen

Murals / Oil Portraits
Children's Books

Call today for a
FREE Consultation
503-754-5831

www.natepjensen.com

9715 SW Barbur Blvd.
Portland, OR 97219-6097

Phone: (503) 246-3373
Fax: (503) 246-2767
Rx Hotline: (503) 246-0861

Open 7 days a week

www.pacificveterinaryhospital.com
Email: clientcare@pacvh.com

ROBERTSON CONSTRUCTION & PAINTING LLC

- Interior/Exterior
- Commercial/Residential
- Powerwashing
- Wallcovering
- Patina Stained Concrete
- New Construction & Remodels
- Fences & Decks

James Robertson
PO Box 80897
Portland, OR 97280
(503) 516-1223
(503) 293-6586 (FAX)
robertsonpainting@gmail.com

CCB# 169852 Insured • Bonded

SIGNS BY TOMORROW

SIGNS & GRAPHICS NATIONWIDE

The IDEA Today ... The SIGN Tomorrow!

- SIGNS
- BANNERS
- GRAPHICS
- MAGNETICS
- LETTERING
- LOGOS & MORE

503.244.0980

9220 SW Barbur Blvd. #111 - Portland - OR - 97219

MACKENZIE E. DOUGLAS, D.M.D.
Family Dentistry in Multnomah Village

phone 503-244-3712
fax 503-244-2122
e-mail office@villagedentalpdx.com
web www.villagedentalpdx.com

7615 SW Capitol Highway
Portland, OR 97219