

# Transportation equity? Bring it on!

BY ROB SADOWSKY  
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Metro, our region's elected government charged with helping us make the region an extraordinary place to live, work and play, recently had a bit of a kerfuffle at a recent subcommittee meeting. The Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (a 17-member panel of elected officials

requires governments to ensure that contracts for delivery of projects address specific hiring goals for disadvantaged business enterprises (or DBE's). But this requirement does not directly translate into living wage jobs for all workers on a project. Projects may be required to hire a percentage of contractors meeting DBE goals, but do not have any individual hiring goals. Will we require engineering and planning firms designing the Metro supported Columbia River Crossing project to attain specific goals for hiring low income and other disadvantaged workers (not just contractors)? How much of the \$3.6 billion of the massive bridge project will end up in meaningful, living wage jobs?

and leaders of transportation agencies) was giving final approval to regional flexible funding, a program of federal money that Metro controls and allocates in two-year cycles.

Let's bring that dialogue on! Let us have a consistent approach to equity when it comes to various components of transportation projects:

Multnomah County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury asked for a delay in approving \$2 million for Portland Bike Sharing, asking Portland to come back and address concerns raised by the Community for Equity, a coalition of seven local nonprofits. The groups have asked that the bike sharing system include specific goals for hiring low income and other disadvantaged workers and contractors — in operating the rental system as well as building it.

Projects should meet transportation equity goals for hiring of contractors and employees across the board.

These concerns are valid and attaining the goals are indeed aspiring. Our region should be looking to address transportation equity for each and every project and we need a common understanding of just what equity means.

Our leaders should look to supplement transportation funding with job readiness and workforce development funding so that contractors can adequately meet these needs as well as have confidence that there is a trained and readily accessible workforce for projects.

However, questioning the equity of just the Bike Sharing project actually highlighted the fact that not enough attention is paid to equity in the other projects. The concerns raised by the Community for Equity regarding specific hiring goals sets a standard that is not maintained for all other projects. Federal transportation funding

Major transportation project corridors such as the Columbia River Crossing or the Portland Milwaukie Light Rail should be connected to funding for affordable housing as a proactive measure to ensure that the benefits from improved infrastructure are shared equitably.

Geographic distribution is important! We should be evaluating projects across the region to ensure that infrastructure improvements are benefiting underserved communities throughout the region.

Here's hoping that this is the start of a conversation that will lead to a healthy and productive set of policies that address transportation equity in the Metro region.

## She emerges

By Debra Knauf

Shedding bark  
Leaves  
As snakes shed  
Their skin  
So that new growth  
Can occur

Forces of erosion  
Perfect merger  
Of wind, rock sun, cold heat  
Strip away all  
That is unnecessary

What remains is the essential self  
True essence  
Strength

Wisdom in simplicity  
Fault line  
Force of thrust  
Tectonic plates collide  
Push upward outward  
Exposing layer of rock  
That had been hidden below  
The crust  
New level  
Next level

Painful  
Noisy  
Thrust  
Drive  
Propel  
Advance with pressure  
Cooking far beneath  
The surface

Until a new being emerges

Venus on a clamshell  
Pure  
Naked  
Simple



### HEALTHY STREETBEAT

Bicycle  
Transportation  
Alliance

Healthy Streetbeat is a monthly column for Street Roots written by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA). Our contributors are Rob Sadowsky, executive director, and Margaux Mennesson, communications director.

## PUZZLES

By Cole Merkel

Answers on page 6

### Crossword

- Across
- Circle segments
  - Bickerer in the "Iliad"
  - "God-head" of Roman imperial cult
  - After-bath powder
  - Simians
  - Plains Indian
  - Aroma
  - Toothed fly connectors
  - Brink
  - GM or Ford
  - Allude
  - Persia, now
  - "I was like, Baby Baby Baby" (Justin Bieber hit)
  - Conagra candy popcorn
  - Infomercials, e.g.
  - Heredity carrier
  - Icelandic epic
  - Capitol feature
  - Like a romantic evening, maybe
  - Protection
  - Caroled
  - "Absolutely!"
  - Speech shower
  - "C\_\_\_ la vie!"
  - Ploy
  - Bank job
  - Church fundraiser
  - One of 3.9 billion
  - Valuable deposits
  - Tales and such
  - Like a turkey
  - Unload, as stock
  - Cause for a lawsuit
  - Summits
  - Vortex
  - Moonfish

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21						22				
	23						24				25	26	27	
			28				29				30			
31	32	33		34							35			
36			37				38	39	40					
41							42					43		
44				45	46	47				48				
49				50					51		52	53		
			54						55					56
57	58	59					60				61			
62							63				64			
65							66				67			

- Down
- Elementary particle
  - Speeder's bane
  - Copy
  - Facial hair
  - Exposed to harm
  - "Beowulf," for one
  - Lizard, e.g.
  - Guarantee
  - Christian prayer of devotion for nine-consecutive days
  - \_\_\_-friendly
  - Mutilate
  - \_\_\_ roll
  - A woman born en francais
  - Fake
  - W.W. II fliers
  - Unoldinarily
  - "Ring of Fire" or "Build Me Up Buttercup"
  - Warm up
  - Genetic stuff
  - Animal house
  - Stop! en francais
  - Olden magistrates
  - Artificial leg?
  - Apply
  - Blueprint
  - Foxy
  - Molding with an S-shaped curve
  - Spread
  - Regularity fruits
  - Captain Morgan?
  - through a membrane
  - diffuse
  - Venetian market
  - Fore-and-aft-rigged vessel
  - \_\_\_ cotta
  - Judge
  - Neuter
  - Actor Green of "Austin Powers"
  - Lawyer's org.
  - Amniotic \_\_\_
  - Any doctrine

### Sudoku

			7	4				
		1				7		8
					2		9	
			1		7		5	
2				9			1	
				6				9
	9					8		6
1		2	5					
3	7				6			

The objective of Sudoku is to fill all the blank squares with the correct numbers, from 1 to 9. Every row, column and square must include all digits, 1 through 9, in any order.



This man works.  
So does Street Roots.