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created as a result of construction of a future Southwest Corridor light rail project.”

Although there are strong calls for TriMet to play a role in preserving affordability in the Southwest Corridor, the regional transit agency is not necessarily on board.

TriMet did not respond to a request for comment by press time, but TriMet's director of public affairs, Bernie Bottomly, told the Portland Tribune that no funds from the bond would be spent on housing.

“We fully understand the need for affordable housing in the community; however, TriMet is not legally allowed to issue bonds for housing of any kind, including low-income or affordable housing,” Bottomly told the Tribune. “While we move forward with our jurisdictional partners on discussion of a possible bond measure to fund projects that will combat traffic congestion, we also will work to help Mayor Wheeler and the region identify affordable housing opportunities near transit.”

The Welcome Home Coalition, the affordable-housing advocacy coalition that spearheaded the campaign to pass Portland's first bond for affordable housing, is now rallying its supporters to pressure TriMet to dedicate \$250 million for affordable housing.

Other communities nationwide have knit affordable-housing preservation and development to transportation projects.

Last year, voters in Oakland, Calif.,



PHOTO BY AMANDA WALDROUPE
Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler speaks Oct. 14 at Markham Elementary School in Tigard about how a proposed MAX line in the Southwest Portland would affect affordable housing.

passed a \$600 million obligation bond to pay for transportation projects with \$100 million set aside for affordable-housing purchases, construction and rehabilitation.

The city of Seattle set aside funds for 200 units of housing to be built near the Northgate Transit Center, a light-rail extension expected to open in 2021.

Minneapolis created a “NOAH Impact Fund” to preserve the Twin Cities’ stock of naturally occurring affordable housing by spending \$25 million, which leveraged another \$100 million to preserve 1,000

units of housing.

While there are high hopes for the Southwest Corridor's housing strategy, “it does not guarantee that it is going to be different,” Curren warned, especially if the housing crisis and Portland's white-hot real estate market goes unabated.

But regardless, longtime Southwest resident Omar is determined to stay.

“Our community is attached to the Southwest area,” he said. “We'll figure out something. We'll budget something. We're not here to leave.”

Street King

by Maddy Brown-Clark

He lived on the streets
And he was my king
In a makeshift tent
That was his castle
In a garbage can kingdom
We all kept warm
When the cold rain fell
We huddled like children
Under the bridge
And dreamed of two-story homes
In the woods by the sea
While empty beach house palaces
Lined the sandy streets
It was a perfect way
To ride out a storm
But suddenly reality came back
And we were where we were
But who says dreams
Never come true?
So I hugged my king
Like a loyal queen
And said we could
Dream through this together

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