

Tri-Met Max Station Improvements Funded

The Clinton administration, through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration, has awarded a grant of more than \$7.6 million to Tri-Met to raise existing platforms on the Banfield light rail system.

"This grant will allow Tri-Met to raise station platforms a mere two inches, but they are an important two inches," said Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena. "In conjunction with new low-floor light rail cars that are already on order, the raised platforms will give passengers in wheelchairs level access to the pop-

ular light rail system."

In addition to changing the level of station platforms, the grant will enable Tri-Met to install other features that are required by the American with Disabilities Act. These include warning strips along platform edges, a new public address system and various forms of new signage, including renditions in Braille.

"The Banfield light rail line is one of the genuine success stories in American transportation, Pena said. "This grant will enable the line to serve a wider and more diverse market."

City Financial Health Gets High Grade

The financial management of the city of Portland has received high grades from City Auditor Barbara Clark.

A new report finds favorable trends in over 80 percent of the financial data analyzed. Even through revenues dropped as a result of the property tax limitation

Ballot Measure 5, the city paid its bills on time, balanced the budget and prepared for the future, accord-

ing to the report.

"This performance is the result of effective financial management and a strong regional economy," Clark said.

One problem area noted in the report is that water and sewer bills are increasing much faster than median family income. The auditor also noted the city is relying more on federal and state revenues at a time when those sources are threatened by

budget cuts.

In addition, the city lacks historical information on the condition and age of some important fixed assets and the cost of some employee benefits continue to grow faster than inflation.

The city spent less per capita in 1994 than it did 10 years ago, even though population growth has increased service demands and costs.

City Awards Youth Community Service Grants

Commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury announced the selection of three projects for funding under the Bureau of Housing and Community Development's Youth Community Service Program. Selected projects work with at risk, low and moderate income Portland youth in work that creatively combines education, training, and high quality community service. The three funded projects include:

Rose City Youth Corps. This full year project, operated by the Wetlands Conservancy, will work

with 16 high school dropouts and potential dropouts from throughout the Portland Public School District in an independent alternative education program operated out of Roosevelt High School. During the school year participants will participate in a fully integrated education/work experience program while doing intensive environmental restoration work. During the summer participants will work four days/week and participate in a fifth education day. In addition to receiving summer wages, successful program gradu-

ates will receive 3.5 credits per semester and a \$1,500 education award.

Portland Impact's Summer Urban Revitalization Project. This project will involve 10 youth in painting, community gardening, housing restoration and remodeling, and landscaping projects linked with at least three community development corporations. In addition youth will learn about, and then provide presentations related to the work of the community development corporations.

Grant To Aid Portland's Homeless

To help improve services for Portland's homeless, the PacifiCorp Foundation has issued a grant of \$22,000 for the Homeless Action Fund.

The money will be used to develop housing and support services for the homeless.

"We want to help people break the cycle of homelessness and ensure that the people get the services they need in order to improve their lives," said Carl Talton, general business manager for Pacific Power, a division of PacifiCorp.

This is PacifiCorp's second \$22,000 grant to the fund, which is administered by the Oregon Community Foundation.

The fund was created in 1992 to engage local businesses in a community effort to end homelessness. The monies are used to support the Sally McCracken Building, which is home to 95 former homeless people who must remain alcohol and drug free.

The fund also channels money to the Central City Concern Jobs Program, which addresses housing and job needs for homeless people.

Conference For Minority Contracts

Portland's Environmental Services will sponsor a conference this month on construction-related opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses.

The conference focus is on the city's combined sewer overflow construction program.

The "Contacts to Contracts: Minority/Women/Emerging Small Business Opportunity Conference" will take place Wednesday, May 31 at the Portland Conference Center, 300 N.E. Multnomah St.

"The city will spend approximately \$700 million in the next 16 years to reduce and control combined sewer overflows to the Willamette River and the Columbia Slough," said City Commissioner Mike Lindberg. "We're committed to sharing the economic benefits of the program with all our citizens."

The conference will give representatives from construction and professional service firms a chance to learn about contract opportunities in the combined sewer overflow program.

There will also be an opportunity to network with contractors, consultants and city staff.

Crime Stoppers

Portland Police Bureau and Portland Fire Bureau Arson Investigators, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers and the Oregon Council Against Arson, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the suspect or suspects responsible for intentionally setting fire to a commercial building.

On Monday, March 6, 1995, at approximately 4:27 in the morning, the Portland Fire Bureau responded to a report of a fire at the Taco Time, 2711 SE 122nd Avenue. Upon arrival firefighters found the inside of the building afire.

According to Arson Investigators, the suspect or suspects involved burglarized the building and then intentionally set several fires.

Crime Stoppers, in cooperation with Oregon Council Against Arson, is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823.HELP.

Invitation To Western Oregon

State College Mini-Open House

High School and transfer students interested in attending college and learning about programs at Western Oregon State College are invited to a mini-open house on May 5, called On-Campus Friday.

Future students will gain valuable information about choosing and attending college. Scheduled from 12:30 to 4 p.m., the event includes information about Western's 35 academic degree programs, admissions, financial aid and housing. Students and families also will have the opportunity to tour Western's campus.

For additional information or registration, contact the Admissions Office, Western Oregon State College, Monmouth, OR, 97361, or telephone 503/838-8211 (VTDD).

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Reserves To Join Portland Force

The Portland Police Bureau's reserve unit has gained needed personnel with the addition of 22 Multnomah County Reserve Sheriff's Deputies.

The county reserves voted for the transfer. It marks the first time that a sheriff's reserve group has moved to the police bureau. It follows the city's annexation of much of mid-Multnomah County and is expected to give the volunteers more

opportunities to serve the community.

Moose also thanked Multnomah County Sheriff John Bunnell for his assistance in helping with the transfer.

There are currently 102 members of the Portland Police Reserve. They are assigned various duties, including uniform patrol, parades, special events and prisoner transport.

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PCC Commencement At Schnitzer

Approximately 2,000 students have petitioned to graduate this year. Students will receive transfer and applied science degrees, high school diplomas, GED credentials and special certificates.

William Van Riper was named student speaker. His road to success has been tougher than most; He is blind. Van Riper's speech is titled

"Lessons for the Future."

Community College Liaison Betty, Duvall, a Clinton appointee, will be the keynote speaker. Duvall, who works in Washington, D.C., was a former administrator with Portland Community College and now serves as the voice on community college matters to government.

Pamela Transue, executive dean of PCC's Rock Creek Campus, will serve as emcee.

PCC President Dan Moriarty noted, "For most of our graduates, the road to diploma or certificate has been marked by personal sacrifices and extraordinary commitment. I am always inspired by their perseverance."

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