

# METRO *Life*

The Portland Observer

## SECTION B

### Airport MAX Takes Off!

Local agencies & Bechtel celebrate innovative project

Local government agencies and Bechtel Enterprises Inc. celebrated their innovative public/private venture that will bring light rail to the Portland International Airport (PDX) in 2001 and development of 120-acres of commercial real estate at the entrance to the airport.

The Port of Portland, Tri-Met, the City of Portland, the Portland Development Commission and Bechtel have joined together to form a unique public/private venture. It's the first of its kind in the nation to use public and private funds to build light rail in connection with developing a high-density, transit-oriented project on airport property.

US Dept. of Transportation Deputy Secretary, Mort Downey, also attended the festi-

ties and toured the 5.5-mile light rail extension, which is now under construction. Downey congratulated the Portland area for "being a national model of how to creatively build light rail lines in a highly competitive funding arena."

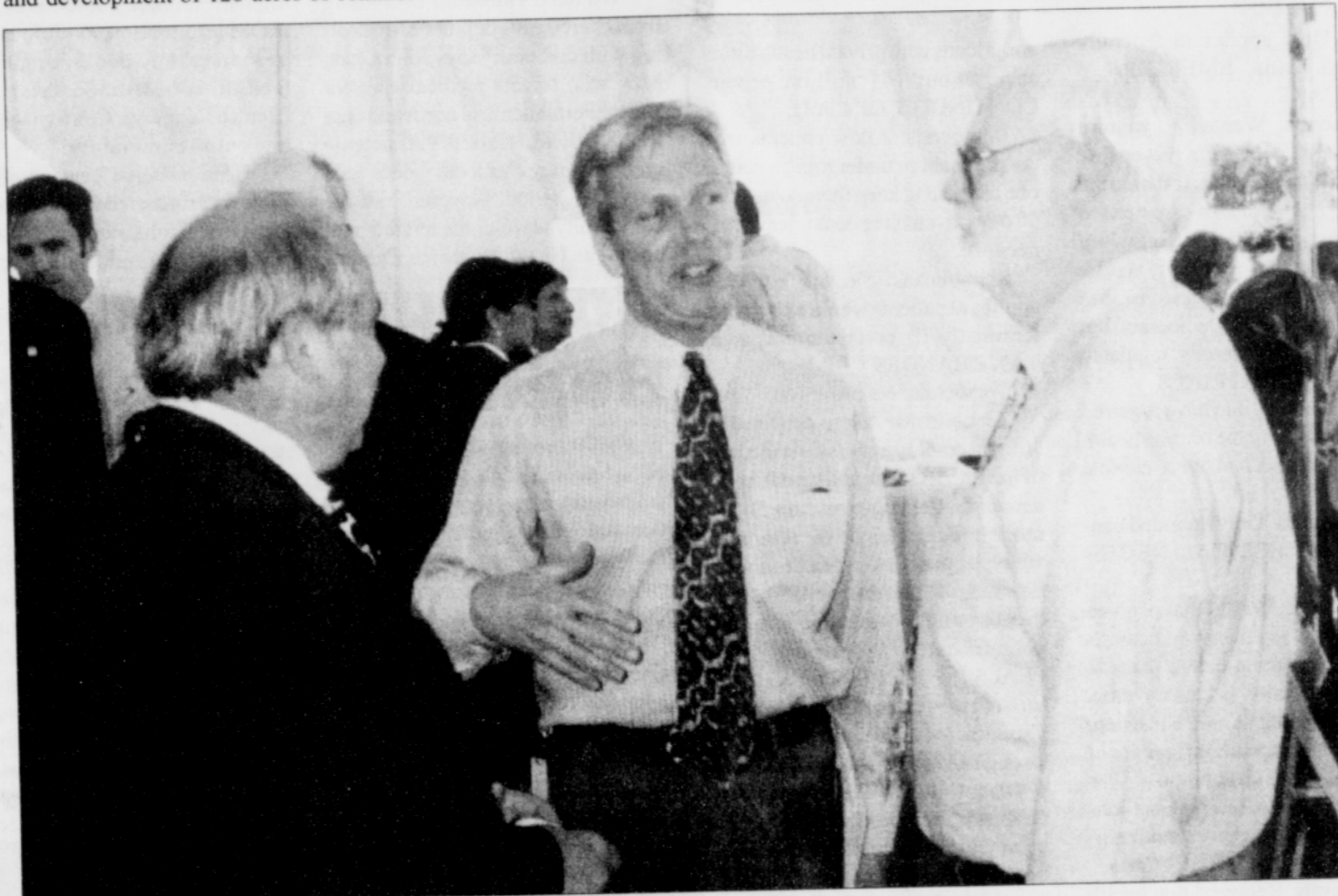
Downey added that the US Dept. of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration helped with technical support for the Environmental Assessment for the Airport MAX project, and helped the Federal Aviation Administration in its approval to use existing passenger Facility Charges to pay for the Port's share of the light rail extension.

#### Airport Max project

The \$125 million project extends from the Gateway Transit Center, along I-205 to the PDX terminal's south baggage claim area. Major construction of the project began in June after the financing plan was finalized.

The partners are sharing the cost of the \$125 million project - no federal funds, state general funds or additional property taxes are being utilized.

Tri-Met General Manager Fred Hansen added that, "having private funds help pay for the light rail extension means we're able to expand our system and deliver more quality transit service to this growing region. This project, along with the development, also provides another example of how light rail serves as a catalyst to shape development and create livable communities."



Above photo: Tri-Met General Manager, Fred Hansen, (center) takes a moment to discuss with U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Mort Downey, (right) and George Passadore, President, Wells Fargo of Oregon, (left) the creativity required of the team players to form a unique public/private venture. The first of its kind in the nation.

Right photo: U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary Mort Downey, enjoys a moment with celebrating partner Helen Knoll, FTA Regional Administrator Region X.



### Community Calendar

#### Homeless Veterans Project

The Portland VA Medical Center and Central City Concern Homeless Veteran Project are celebrating their 5th annual Minority and Homeless Veterans Conference. At the event, there will be free health screenings, educational information offered, picture ID's taken and other offerings. The conference is being held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel on Friday, June 25 from 9 AM until 5:30 PM. Call 503/402-2903 or 1-800-949-1004, ext. 52903.

#### Mambo Queens

On Friday, July 23rd, concerts will be held at the Tualatin Commons. The Mambo Queens will introduce you to Afro-Cuban music and culture in a program of drumming, song, dance, storytelling, and costumes that you won't soon forget. Led by Cuban born, Virginia Lopez, this international cast hails from Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Panama, and the US, as well as Cuba. Call 692-2000 ext. 932 for details and directions.

#### World Walk for Breastfeeding

La Leche League International's World Walk for Breastfeeding will be held on Saturday, August 7 from noon to 4 PM in Lair Hill Park in downtown Portland. The one-mile symbolic walk will begin at 1:30 PM on the running track adjacent to Lair Hill Park. La Leche League International (LLLI) is a nonprofit organization that provides information and support to 200,000 breastfeeding mothers in 66 countries every month. Call 503/524-9616.

#### Explore Africa This Summer

The Homowa African Arts and Cultures are presenting a four-week series of African arts day camps for children ages 6-12. The day camps begin July 19 and run through August 13. Each weeklong camp occurs Monday through Friday from 9 AM until 3 PM. The series begins July 19-23 at the East Portland Community Center, 740 SE 106th Ave. The second camp follows July 26-30 at Whitaker Middle School, 5700 NE 39th. For additional information, call 503/288-3025.

#### Help Needy Children

The L.I.F.E. (Low-Income Families Emergency) Center is having its 16th annual back-to-school drive for needy children (K-12). The drive will continue through August 10, 1999. The Center needs new and good usable clothing to ensure needy children are properly prepared for the upcoming school year. If you need more information or would like to volunteer for the giveaway, call Leslie Garth at 503/284-6878. All donations may be dropped off at the L.I.F.E. Center at 2746 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. Or, call the Center for a pick-up.

#### Dog Days of Summer

On Saturday, July 31st from 10 AM until 5 PM, unleash your spirit on MLK Boulevard with special sidewalk sale discounts. Enjoy a neighborhood celebration featuring food, music, entertainment and fun dog events. The event is sponsored by the MLK Goode Ole Days Merchants Society. Call Bridget Bayer at 503/288-4169.

#### Ancient Forest Picnic

Join ONRC friends and families for a day of guided ancient forest hikes, games, swimming, music and fabulous vegetarian bar-b-que. Learn about the Oregon Wild campaign to protect wilderness in Oregon on Sunday, August 22 from 11 AM - 5 PM. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 8-18. This will get you the entire day's activities and all-you-can-eat. For more information or directions, contact Catherine at 503-283-6343 ext.211 or visit their website page at [ct@onrc.org](http://ct@onrc.org).

#### 2nd Annual Marble Tournament

Trophies and prizes are offered to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The event will be held in the Water Tower, in the special marble pit. The goal is to get people back to the basics-down on their hands and knees-discovering the Celestial wonders- in the marble pit, exploring the craft of a glass blowing/marble making, and experiencing the history of marbles. The event begins Saturday July 23 at 10 AM and Sunday July 24 at noon. The entry fee is \$5 at the David Frank Charms and Amulets of the 21st century. If you have any questions, contact David or Connie Frank at 503-222-2034.

SUBMISSIONS: Community Calendar information will be given priority if dated two weeks before the event date.

## THE CITY OF PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

### Invite the Public to Share in Their 2020 Parks Vision Plan

The vision: To reinforce the role of parks as the liaison between people, their community, and their government.

Portland Parks & Recreation is attempting to assemble a diverse and broadly representational working Citizen Team. The 2020 Parks Vision Plan will be a two-year planning process aimed at dis-

covering how Portland Parks & Recreation will meet the ever changing needs of our community over the next 20 years. Portland has been experiencing an unprecedented rate of growth and develop-

ment. A direct effect of this growth has been an increasing value on the preservation of open space as well as recreational opportunities close to home. The dawn of a new millennium suggests that it is time to give a fresh look at how PP & R should capitalize on these opportunities in a new century.



Charles Jordan Director of Portland Parks and Recreation, Portland Commissioner Jim Franseconi and Mel Stout, of the 40 Mile Loop Land Trust relax for a moment during the presentation of Portland Parks and Recreation's 2020 Plan.

The 2020 Vision Plan will focus on three major issues that our Park System will face in the next 20 years:

- 1 Considering the current state of our programs, land and facilities as well as the nature of future demand, how will Portland Parks and recreation determine an appropriate level of service for sports fields, pools, playgrounds, etc., in the future?
- 2 How will we provide for both the active and passive recreation needs of our community as well as serve our role as stewards of our sensitive ecosystem?
- 3 What resources will be necessary to reach the stated goals in terms of staff, facilities, governance, partnerships and volunteers? How can we nurture and broker the services of our key partners?