



## Interstate MAX focuses on the community



*Marcela Alcantar's firm, Alcantar & Associates, is doing civil engineer work for the MAX project. She's a role model for young Latinas while making her mark on the project and in the community.*

TriMet's Interstate MAX light rail project is connecting communities in North and Northeast Portland. The project is also helping to revitalize the neighborhoods and create opportunities for local firms to work on the project.

### Local companies & workers on the job

By engaging the community as partners, TriMet has created innovative business practices to involve local businesses in the project. This model is recognized as a groundbreaking approach to providing real opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE).

To date, about one-third of the subcontractors building Interstate MAX are DBE firms, with half coming from the Portland area.

*Michael Martin, Northwest General Contractor is a Northeast Portland DBE firm helping to keep pollutants out of the Willamette River. Owner Michael Martin is installing four storm drain treatment manholes in the Lower Albina Industrial Area that will trap and filter debris before entering the Willamette.*



### Connecting with DBE firms

TriMet provided technical and business assistance and opportunities for small firms to compete for large contracts. Many of these businesses have blossomed as a result of working on the project.

### Open for business

TriMet has worked with the businesses along Interstate Avenue to minimize construction impacts. The "Interstate Avenue is Open for Business" campaign has attracted shoppers to the unique services and products available on Interstate.

The Lunch Bus is part of that business support program, and since it began in November 2001, more than 1,200 people have visited Interstate Avenue restaurants, spending about \$9,000.

### Ahead of schedule

Construction on the Interstate MAX light rail line is ahead of schedule and under budget. By the end of this year, new sidewalks and streets will be in place, and construction activities will no longer impact businesses, as construction will be contained within the trackway.

For more information, visit [trimet.org/max/yellowline](http://trimet.org/max/yellowline), Español: [trimet.org/max/yellowline/espanol.htm](http://trimet.org/max/yellowline/espanol.htm) or call the MAX Construction Hotline at 503-962-2222.



*Vicqui Guevara owns Valley Growers Nursery, a local DBE providing trees, shrubs and ground cover to the Interstate MAX project. TriMet is planting 1,200 trees, tripling the number of trees along the alignment.*

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