

# Underground Parking Benefits Seen

## Input guides Cascade Campus expansion

The future vision of Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland is coming into focus. Thanks to input from college and community members via stakeholder meetings and public outreach, decisions have been made for the future development of academic buildings and underground parking facilities.

A new education building will be located on a PCC surface parking lot between North Albina and Mississippi avenues at the west end of the campus. In addition, a new student center, incorporating expanded student activities and food services, will be built to the south of this building. The Cascade library will remain at its current location facing North Killingsworth Street.

These projects are part of the 2008 voter-approved property tax bond measure. Approximately \$60 million of the \$374 million bond will support the improvements.

Cascade bond and design teams plan to begin schematic design this month. Final design, city review and permitting, and development of construction documents will all take place during the year, with construction slated to begin around this time next year. THA Architecture is providing planning and design services for the campus.

"The way PCC reached out to the community for input far exceeded my expectations," said Kerrie Melda, a 17-year Commercial Street resident and a consultant with Human Services Research Institute. "They brought in business owners, residents, and different parts of the PCC community to have this plan go forward. It was so inclusive."

Before any new buildings could be built, the college needed to take the time to plan and involve many internal and external stakeholders as well as complete a campus plan. For more than a year faculty, staff, students and members of the extended neighborhood community have participated in two planning committees, which worked on parallel issues that have helped guide the decision to locate these future facilities.

"I'd like to thank the many

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Expansion plans for Portland Community College's Cascade Campus in north Portland would keep the greenway it fashioned a few years ago, but replace two surface parking lots on each side of the space with new buildings and underground parking.

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