

Coming to highway near you: electrically powered big rigs

A plan to create a clean transit corridor supporting electric-powered big rigs would have 27 charging stations built along Interstate 5 through California, Oregon and Washington.

During the next decade, electricity could power as many as 25 percent of the medium-duty trucks and 5 percent of the heavy freight haulers in the three states, according to the West Coast Clean Transit Corridor Initiative.

The initiative is a study commissioned by a collaboration of utility companies, including Pacific Power.

“The future of Oregon’s transportation is electric, and

utilities have an essential role to play in building the infrastructure needed to support a cleaner energy future,” said Aaron Milano, a manager at Portland General Electric.

The report, released in June, recommends expanding state, federal or private programs that provide funding for transportation electrification, which could further accelerate electric truck adoption and expand economic opportunities constructing charging sites.

Portland General Electric and Pacific Power are developing infrastructure programs that support nonresidential electric vehicle charging, but more support will be needed



Courtesy Volvo Trucks North America

An electric concept truck by Volvo. Volvo LIGHTS (Low Impact Green Heavy Transport Solutions) is a public-private partnership working to transform freight operations.

to reach levels identified in the study and meet state climate goals.

Transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon,

To learn more

To read the full study or parts of it, visit westcoast-cleantransit.com.

making the electrification of freight transportation a critical part of meeting the state’s climate goals.

The study’s final report proposes a phased approach to electrifying the I-5 corridor.

The first phase would involve installing the 27 charging sites along I-5 at 50-mile intervals for medium-duty electric vehicles, such as delivery vans, by 2025.

By 2030, 14 of the sites would be expanded to accommodate electric big rigs as well.

Of the 27 proposed sites, five are in Oregon.

College nursing programs forced to get creative

Portland Community College came up with an innovative way to run its nursing program during social distancing requirements brought on by COVID-19.

The nursing program moved entirely online using software that allows its students to care for actor patients in real time.

The pivot has allowed students to continue training, graduate on time and find jobs in the health-care industry.

Rather than attending clinical experiences to practice direct patient care, students engage in virtual simulation called “ATI Real-Life Clinical Reasoning” scenarios, which were approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing.

These scenarios were used in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing study, which concluded that simulation can be effectively substituted for up to 50 per-



A screen shot of a nursing scenario students might face.

of experience they may not have otherwise gotten.”


The scenarios are quite lifelike, allowing student nurses to make independent decisions in a safe environment, Reynolds added.


Students get immediate feedback on their choices and are able to go back and see what would happen if they made different choices.

Nursing students at Clatsop Community College and across the state are using similar training methods.

Even before COVID-19, there was a high demand for nurses in Oregon. With the pandemic, the need has skyrocketed.

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