

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION  
HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST FORM**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009**

This form must be filled out in its entirety. It must be accompanied by at least one letter of support from a state, regional, or local governmental official specifically supporting the project request. This letter should discuss the merits of the project; specify the process to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the project; and identify the other sources of Federal, state, or private funding that will be used to complete this project or project phase. This letter must contain an explicit statement of support for the project. In addition, if you are requesting less than 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity, the letter must identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources that, combined with this request, equal at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost. Please use **boldface font** to highlight these statements in the letter.

**The deadline to submit this form and the support letter is Friday, April 24, 2009. No exceptions.** Please submit this form along with any supplementary materials to David Skillman via email at [dskillman@blumenauer.house.gov](mailto:dskillman@blumenauer.house.gov). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [dskillman@blumenauer.house.gov](mailto:dskillman@blumenauer.house.gov).

**Form instructions:** This form contains drop-down menus to answer some questions. To access the drop-down menu, run your cursor over "Select One" or "Select One if Applicable" and click your mouse. A drop-down menu will appear and you can select the appropriate answer. Additionally, written answers should be typed in the gray boxes provided.

**1. Project Title:**

Streetcar Planning and Alternatives Analysis

**2. Organization (project sponsor) Name and Address:** (if state or local entity, please identify specific department requesting funding)

City of Portland  
Bureau of Transportation  
1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, #800  
Portland, OR 97204

**3. Primary contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number, and e-mail:**

**4. Project location address (if different from organization):**

City of Portland city wide

**5. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The purpose of the project is to conduct Alternative Analysis studies on up to three of the highest rated corridors in the Portland Streetcar System Plan to expand the streetcar network to mixed-use commercial corridors beyond the Central City. Expanding the streetcar network would allow the City to strategically orient development and future residential population to pedestrian-oriented,

mixed-use, high quality transit corridors. Growth in the form of transit-oriented development in these corridors reduces infill development pressure on existing single-family residential neighborhoods and provide lifestyle choices where people won't need to drive as much and can walk more easily to the goods and services needed on a daily basis. Less driving reduces emissions that cause global warming and increased walking provides health benefits.

Taxpayers in Oregon are struggling with the staggering costs of infrastructure expenses needed to sustain the roads and bridges in the transportation system. Suburban growth patterns reliant on the automobile as the primary transportation option add to the demand placed on the system. Investments in streetcar infrastructure are focused on existing city and community commercial corridors where infrastructure is already in place and can be redeveloped and repurposed to build vital new main streets and neighborhoods - without having to build new roads to serve additional population growth. Portland spent \$113 million to build the existing streetcar. Private investment is now at \$3.5 billion. The return-on-investment for the existing streetcar in Portland has been 27:1. This investment in transit infrastructure will continue to pay dividends to the residents of Portland for decades to come.

Like many other cities, Portland is growing in population and is proactively looking for ways to promote economic development while managing growth. Keeping Portland healthy is critical to the region's economic stability. The Portland Streetcar is at the heart of a new approach to shaping cities that promotes investment at the City's core, provides homes for people of diverse income groups and supports the urban amenities that make great cities great. Since 1997 when the original streetcar alignment was identified, properties along its length have experienced significant changes:

- \$3.5 billion has been invested within two blocks of the streetcar alignment.
- 10,212 new housing units and 5.4 million square feet of office, institutional, retail and hotel construction have been constructed within two blocks of the alignment.
- 55% of all Central Business District (CBD) development since 1997 has occurred within 1-block of the streetcar and properties located closest to the streetcar line more closely approach the zoned density potential than properties situated farther away.
- Developers are building new residential buildings with significantly lower parking ratios than anywhere else in the region.

Streetcar also plays an important role in keeping Portland economically competitive as a preferred place to work and start businesses. As a growing icon for urban vitality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Portland is attracting diversified skill labor forces and more people who want to enjoy the quality of life Portland offers. The streetcar is recognized as a critical component of the community infrastructure attractive to residents as diverse as empty-nesters, young creatives and families. The streetcar is an organizing element of mixed-use neighborhoods that people are drawn to and want to work in. By playing a key role in catalyzing economic development and creating places where people want to live and work, the streetcar strengthens the local economy against the fluctuations of fossil fuel market by providing people with choices for transportation and access to everyday needs.

Investments in streetcar not only creates jobs to build the transit infrastructure, but has an employment ripple affect throughout the community. Statistics have shown that for every \$1.25 million spent in transit infrastructure, 35 jobs are created. Streetcar's partnership with economic development as a growth strategy yeilds even more job creation in the building and construction sectors. New development and commercial space allow businesses to grow, creating more employment opportunities. \$10 million in capital investment in public transportation can return up to \$30 million in business sales alone.

6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes  
If Yes, this project is priority 2 of 5 total requests for your organization.  
(For example, priority 1 of 3 requests or priority 3 of 3 requests.)

7. Are you requesting funds from other Members of Congress? Yes  
If Yes, which Members? Representative Wu, Representative Schrader, Senator Merkley,  
Senator Wyden

8. Please select which type of eligible project under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the U.S. Code for which you are requesting funding. (Note: The Committee will not accept requests for non-surface transportation projects, such as transportation museums, horse trails, or historic battlefields, as part of the High Priority Projects program.)  
**Highway Project (Title 23)**

Type: Select One

Located on a Federal-aid highway? Select One

Located on the National Highway System? Select One

Located on the Interstate System? Select One

**Public Transit Project (Chapter 53 of Title 49)**

Indicate Type with an 'X':

Passenger Vehicles

Transit Bus or Van

Transit Rail Car or Locomotive, including Streetcars

Transit Ferry

Transit Facilities

Vehicle Maintenance or Administration Facility

Passenger Facility, including Intermodal Facilities, stations, and terminals

Transit Rights-of-Way

Property Acquisition  Corridor Development

Rail Track Construction or Maintenance

Bus-only Lane Construction or Maintenance

Transit Equipment

Vehicle-related Equipment  System-related Equipment

New Start Project (A New Start project is a major *new* fixed guideway capital project seeking more than \$75 million in Federal funds.)

Small Start Project (A Small Start project is a *new* fixed guideway capital project seeking less than \$75 million in Federal funds and with a total estimated net capital cost of less than \$250 million.)

**Rail**

Intercity Passenger Rail (Not commuter rail. Commuter rail should be requested under public transit)

Is the project located within a corridor previously designated by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to section 104(d)(2) of Title 23, United States Code, or the Northeast Corridor? Select One

If Yes, which Corridor: Select One

Freight Rail

Select Rail Class

**Research**

University Transportation Center

Other

**9. Did the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, State Department of Transportation, or public transit agency confirm that the project is eligible under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the United States Code? Yes**

If Yes, which entity confirmed the project eligibility?

FHWA, FTA, State DOT, or Public Transit Agency:

TriMet (Public Transit Agency)

Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):

According to the entity, is the project eligible under Title 23, Title 49, or both:  
Title 49

**10. Please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity that is an eligible recipient of the funds. Please include an address.** (For example, a State Department of Transportation, public transit agency, Metropolitan Planning Organization, local government, or Federally-recognized tribe.) Note: If a project is a multi-state project, please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity which will serve as the lead agency for the project.

City of Portland

**11. Please identify and describe the specific segment or activity for which project funding is requested.** (The request must finance at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity by either (1) the amount requested; or (2) the amount requested in addition to other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources.)

Project Description: (Include the specific terminus points of the project or activity, as appropriate.)

Conduct Alternatives Analysis for up to 3 of the highest ranking streetcar corridors identified in the City of Portland Streetcar System Plan

Project Activities: (May select more than one.)

- |   |                                       |   |                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> construct            | <input type="checkbox"/> plan         | <input type="checkbox"/> design                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> engineer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conduct              |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental review                     |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> acquire right-of-way |                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conduct alternatives analysis |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> research             | <input type="checkbox"/> develop      | <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrate                              | <input type="checkbox"/> deploy   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reconstruct          | <input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitate | <input type="checkbox"/> replace                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> retrofit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> install              | <input type="checkbox"/> mitigate     | <input type="checkbox"/> implement                                | <input type="checkbox"/> realign  |

What is the total estimated cost?

\$ 6,000,000

What amount is being requested? \$5,000,000

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding? 80%

If the percentage is less than 80% identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local; or private funding that when combined with this request equal at least 80 percent.

Source:

Amount of Funding:

**12. If you are requesting funding for a specific segment or activity, please describe the overall project of which this segment/activity is a part.**

Project Description: (Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences; up to 500 characters.)

Total Project Estimated cost:

**13. Is the project included in the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan? No**

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the plan:

**14. Is the project included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)? No**

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the program(s), and the title of the program(s).

Listed in TIP: Select One

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the Program:

Listed in STIP: Select One

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the Program:

**15. If the project is an intercity passenger rail project is it included in the State Rail Plan?**

Not Applicable

If Yes, please provide the date on which the Governor approved the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the plan:

**16. Please describe the current status of the project and the expected schedule for its completion.**

Federal-aid Highway projects:

Select One if Applicable

Public Transit projects:

In Planning

Rail projects:

Select One if Applicable

Research:

Select One if Applicable

**17. What is the expected date of completion of the project for which you are requesting funding (Between FY2010-FY2020)?** 2017

**18. Does the project have regional or national significance?** (A project of regional and/or national significance is typically a high-cost transportation infrastructure facility that often includes multiple levels of government, agencies, modes of transportation, and transportation goals and planning processes that are not easily addressed or funded within existing surface transportation program categories. These projects have national and/or regional benefits, including improving economic productivity by facilitating international trade, relieving congestion, and improving transportation safety by facilitating passenger and freight movement.)

**Does the project have regional or national significance?** No

If Yes. Please describe the regional or national significance of the project. Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences (up to 500 characters):

**19. Describe the safety, economic development, mobility, and environmental benefits associated with completion of the project.**

Safety Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

Since its opening on July 20, 2001, the westside Portland Streetcar has provided over 207,000 hours of service with only one (1) accident requiring the transport of an injured party for medical attention. Mixed-traffic operation provides greater accessibility and visibility from pedestrians and adjacent land uses. Streetcar stations, located on sidewalks in mixed-use commercial corridors, are integral with the streetscape adding to the benefits of passive surveillance from pedestrians.

Economic Development Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

The investment in streetcars represent a significant shift in density and location of new development in the City of Portland. Over 10,000 new residences and \$3.5 billion has been invested within two blocks of the streetcar alignment. Complimentary to transit corridor job creation is the fact that streetcars are made locally at Oregon Iron Works - each streetcar made here creates 30 family wage jobs.

Mobility Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

When streetcar service was initiated in 2001, ridership projections were for 3500 riders per day. Portland Streetcar's existing ridership at over 12,000 riders per day (over 4 million annually) helps reduce congestion in areas where an expanded street network is not possible. Streetcar's popularity extends beyond the peak hour travel times - ridership during off-peak hours such as the lunch hour is high and Saturday ridership has grown from 3,200 to 9,000 riders in the past six years.

Environmental Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

Streetcar's well-known environmental benefits are that it runs on electricity, has no emissions, and helps reduce the need to use automobiles for daily trips. Another significant benefit is that the high-density urban development associated with streetcar development has the potential for 60% overall savings in carbon footprint compared to a lower-density suburban alternative. This reflects the potential for a 76% savings in transportation and 46% savings in development carbon footprint.

**20. Has the project previously received any Federal funding?** No

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (P.L. 109-59)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) (P.L. 105-178)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (NHS Act) (P.L. 104-59)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (P.L. 102-240)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Appropriations act(s)

Public Law Name:

Public Law Number:

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Other legislation:

Public Law Name:

Public Law Number:

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

**21. Has the project received any prior funding from a state, local, or private source? Yes**

Source: City of Portland

Amount of Funding: \$330,00

Amount Obligated: All

**22. Please provide the proposed legislative text (in no more than 250 characters) of the project as you would like it to appear in the bill.** Please use action verbs to begin the description (for example, "construct," "plan," "design," "engineer," "research," or "rehabilitate"). Please note that project line items carry the force of law, and can only be amended through subsequent public laws. If Congressional intent (as established through answers listed on this form) is different from the legislative text, the entity administering the project is required to adhere to the statutory language.

City of Portland - Streetcar Planning and Alternatives Analysis

23. Are you enclosing the letter referenced at the top of this form with the required formatting? Yes

24. Notes or anything else we should know about the project request:

**Please return this form and at least one local or state letter of support  
no later than Friday, April 24, 2009 (via email) to:**

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**@mail.house.gov**

Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: David Skillr  
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson,