

*Expansion of Clackamas County Light Rail will provide vital transportation connection, help bolster the economy, and create jobs*

**WASHINGTON D.C.** – Oregon Reps. Kurt Schrader (OR-05) and Earl Blumenauer (OR-03) applauded today’s announcement by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood that \$32 million is headed to Oregon to help fund the South Corridor Light Rail Extension Project. This project is a major expansion of Portland’s existing light rail system in the I-205 Corridor from Gateway Transit Center to Clackamas Town Center. This federal funding comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in February.

“As a small business owner I understand how important access to public transportation can be for a business,” said Schrader. “This expansion is going to be a huge boon for Clackamas Town Center and the region. It will create jobs in the short-term during the construction and create jobs in the long-term with stronger businesses in Clackamas County.”

The Gateway Transit Center is a major hub of light rail transit in the region. Trains from Gresham, downtown Portland, Beaverton, Hillsboro and Portland International Airport all travel through the Gateway center.

“This announcement is great news for the South Corridor Light Rail Project, for our community, and for the state of Oregon. The infusion of \$32 million in Recovery funding will support a project estimated to create over 7,500 jobs, and will continue construction of a project that will provide a key transportation connection in our region,” said Rep. Blumenauer. This investment will be a shot in the arm to the local economy, and is a vital transportation corridor. I commend President Obama and his administration for their partnership with my district and for their commitment to economic recovery and to building livable communities.”

The \$32 million allocation does not increase the federal commitment to the projects, but expedite funds committed under the agreement between federal government and the transit agencies.

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