

*Members of Oregon Delegation Join to Unveil "Made in America" Streetcar*

Portland, OR— Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore) today joined U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to unveil a new American-made streetcar prototype. The streetcar, manufactured by Oregon Iron Works, Inc. in Clackamas, Oregon, is the first American-made streetcar in 58 years. Secretary LaHood's visit is the result of an invitation extended by Blumenauer earlier in this year, and they were joined by Oregon Representatives Peter DeFazio, Kurt Schrader, and David Wu.

Following are statements from Rep. Blumenauer, Secretary LaHood, and Governor Kulongoski:

"It is a pleasure to host Secretary LaHood in Portland," said Congressman Earl Blumenauer. "I worked closely with him while he was in Congress, and it is wonderful to have an ally at the Department of Transportation who understands the importance of investing in livable communities. Portland is recognized for its smart investments in public transportation and thoughtful city planning, which has not only reduced our city's global warming pollution but improved people's quality of life. As Congress and the administration take on two of our nation's greatest challenges – health care and global warming – making sure our citizens can more easily get around by walking, biking, and taking public transit will help us meet these goals. It is symbolic that today's streetcar unveiling comes on the heels of the historic House passage of the energy and climate bill. After much work, the bill passed with funding for low-carbon transportation. By investing in streetcars, like the one we're seeing today, we can reduce our carbon pollution, end our dependence on oil, and finally begin the process of rebuilding and renewing America."

"Portland's commitment to public transportation and its visionary streetcar system has made it one of the most livable, sustainable, and economically vibrant cities in America. Now, Portland has teamed up with a local manufacturer, Oregon Iron Works, Inc. to build the first American-made streetcar in nearly 60 years," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "I commend Rep. Blumenauer for all of his great work on this and the city of Portland for developing a public transportation system that can serve the needs of citizens while generating good-paying local jobs, spurring economic growth and achieving greater energy efficiency."

"This project is the result of partnerships at every level of government coming together and I am proud of the state's contribution," said Governor Ted Kulongoski. "In the 2007 session, the state of Oregon invested \$20 million for the Eastside Streetcar project – resulting in good family wage jobs and advancing our mission to create livable communities connected by a green and sustainable transportation system."

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