

Washington, DC — The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee today approved legislation including \$15.8 million for transportation projects in East Multnomah County. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), a senior member of the Committee, secured the projects as part of a funding package for the nation's highway and transit projects for the next six years.

“I'm pleased the Committee agreed to fund these important projects that will create jobs, ease congestion and improve the livability of our communities,” Blumenauer said.

The East County projects in the transportation funding package include:

\$2 million to complete needed Stark Street improvements in Rockwood Town Center. Currently, this area has dangerous pedestrian and car crossings that have resulted in numerous injuries. City of Gresham planners believe that these transportation improvements will also directly improve the economic conditions of Rockwood and lead to private investments.

\$1.5 million for construction of a light rail station, bus, bicycle and parking facilities and in support of transit oriented development for Gresham's Civic Neighborhood.

\$4.5 million for the first of three phases to Metro's Regional Trails Program for acquisition, preliminary engineering and construction of trails.

“As leader of the metropolitan delegation that went to Washington earlier this month, I am grateful to Congressman Blumenauer for making sure that his funding priorities include the critical projects we discussed,” commented Metro Councilor Rod Park, chair of the regional Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation. “My district will benefit from the Rockwood Town Center, Gresham Civic Station, regional trails and freight mobility projects and go a long way toward protecting our livability and supporting our economy.”

“We are very appreciative of Representative Blumenauer's continued efforts and successes on behalf of Gresham,” said Gresham Mayor Chuck Becker. “Without Representative Blumenauer's ability to bring these federal dollars back home to the City of Gresham these projects could not be completed. These projects demonstrate the cooperative

efforts of Representative Blumenauer and the City of Gresham and specifically his commitment to the needs of the community he represents."

\$7.8 million for street improvements in the Gateway area, as part of the Gateway Urban Renewal District Development Plan. A regional center, Gateway's economic growth has been stifled by a poor transportation infrastructure. This funding will make improvements on 102nd street and will help clear the way for private development in the Gateway district. This area has a strong local citizen advisory committee and sought out Congressman Blumenauer's support for their efforts.

"I am extremely pleased that Congressman Blumenauer has obtained \$ 7.8 million for much needed Gateway transportation improvements," said Portland City Commissioner Jim Francesconi. "Gateway can become a showcase for turning transportation and land use investment into economic development while at the same time improving neighborhood livability. I applaud Blumenauer's commitment to our Eastside neighborhoods."

The "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" (TEA-LU) is the much-awaited House version of legislation to reauthorize federal funding for bikes, transit, pedestrian, bridge and highway projects across the country. The Senate approved a similar version earlier this year. The bill is expected to be considered by the full House of Representatives next week and then must be reconciled with the Senate version of the legislation.