

Washington, DC — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) today announced two important FY03 grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to the Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet), the Portland region's transit agency:

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\$1,967,357 for the purchase of eight additional low-floor, air-conditioned, forty-foot replacement buses.

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\$2,129,942 from the FTA's Job Access and Reverse Commute program to continue TriMet's successful program to provide commuters with efficient alternatives to driving.

"These grants represent two more steps in making Portland communities more livable," Blumenauer said. "Additional low-floor buses will make it easier for individuals to board the bus. This translates into faster boarding times and better transit service for everyone.

"The Job Access and Reverse Commute funding enables TriMet to provide better service to more areas, improving access to jobs and stimulating the region's economy.

"TriMet's demonstrated success with these programs illustrates why it is regarded as one of the nation's best transit agencies," continued Blumenauer. "I am proud to have secured funding to help TriMet continue these effective programs."

TriMet purchased its first low-floor vehicle in 1997 and expects to have an entire fleet of low-floor buses by 2012. Initiated in October 2000, TriMet's Jobs Access program has increased workers' access to family wage jobs on Swan Island and other locations.