

WASHINGTON, DC-Congressman Blumenauer officially requested a congressional committee to provide funds for a new light rail stop in Gresham, Oregon. Blumenauer's request to the U.S. House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee was for \$3.5 million from the federal Transportation and Community System Preservation Pilot Program (TCSP) to help build a Gresham Civic Neighborhood Light Rail Station and Plaza.

"I chose the Gresham project as one of my top transportation funding priorities because it is a great example of a successful partnership between the community, the private sector, Metro, and Tri-Met to build another vibrant commercial area in Gresham," said Blumenauer. "I'll be working hard this year to ensure that this project and our other regional priorities get full consideration by Congress."

The request was made to the subcommittee that decides which local transportation projects will receive funding in the fiscal year 2003 budget. The subcommittee allows Members of Congress to request funding for only five projects. Congress will decide which projects will receive funding later this summer.

Chuck Becker, the Mayor of Gresham, said, "Gresham is excited by this opportunity to build a high quality, light rail station building and plaza at the heart of our new 100 acre transit village, the Gresham Civic Neighborhood. This critical federal partnership will support further development of the station building, streetscape, and development design."

The Gresham Civic Neighborhood project is a key element of the Gresham Regional Center located adjacent to downtown and served by light rail. It is being developed as an urban mixed-use development surrounding the proposed transit station. The neighborhood will be a model transit village in the Portland region. Planning for this area has engaged the community together with local elected officials, transportation representatives and the private developer. TCSP funds will be used to further develop the station building, streetscape, and development design.