



City of Tigard Press Release

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City Council Forwards Light Rail in Tigard for November Vote

The Tigard City Council approved placing a measure before Tigard voters in November to allow a planned light rail line to come to Tigard.

Final approval would still require a “yes” vote on the Nov. 8 ballot by a majority of Tigard voters. Tigard’s City Charter now states a high-capacity transit project such as light rail cannot come to Tigard without a vote of its residents.

“It’s up to Tigard voters. They will now be able to vote on TriMet’s MAX light rail service coming to Tigard, like they’ve wanted to, this November,” said City Manager Marty Wine. “If Tigard voters approve, it would give the city’s support for the light rail project and allow for changes in our land use regulations so the last part of this region could get light rail service.”

The vote would not impose or increase any fees or taxes for light rail. Tigard citizens may bear some share of future light rail costs, but the city currently has no plans to request local funding of voters, which would be required under another section of the city charter. Regional funding for a future Southwest Corridor light rail project may mean a regional vote, likely in 2018. Costs to build a MAX light rail line in the southwest metro area would be shared among federal grants, regional and local matching funds.

To help residents understand the ballot measure, the city has created a Southwest Corridor web page, which provides FAQs on the project and election, maps, impacts to traffic and land, costs and more about the project. Go to: www.tigard-or.gov/swc.

Light rail plans are meant to address regional transportation issues impacting Tigard and neighboring communities. Those include providing transportation options to address traffic volumes on roadways, serving continued residential and commercial growth and also improving safe travel choices for pedestrians and cyclists.

The Southwest Corridor Steering Committee, which has members from communities in the corridor including Tigard, is reviewing route options how to provide service to downtown Tigard. Currently planned light rail alignments include stations in the Tigard Triangle and in downtown Tigard near the existing transit center. Three different alignments are being studied between the Triangle and downtown.

All three of these alignments will be studied in the federal environmental review expected to last through 2017. This process will analyze potential impacts, costs and mitigating measures of the alternatives to further determine the best option.

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