



City of Tigard Press Release

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Preliminary Results Show Tigard's Light Rail Ballot Measure Passing

Unofficial election results from the Washington County Elections Office show a majority of Tigard voters have approved Ballot Measure 34-255. If the current vote balance holds once certified by county officials, the measure clears the way for continued region-wide planning to extend MAX light rail service to Tigard.

"Tigard voters have allowed us to keep planning for light rail to come to Tigard. We will continue to be at the table to bring Tigard's voice for what light rail will be for this part of the region," said Mayor John L. Cook. "This measure did not do anything financial, but next up is choosing the alignment that will come through the city, and asking for funding for the light rail extension from voters all over the region in 2018."

The vote means the city may amend land use regulations to allow light rail to cross wetlands with proper mitigation, and allow construction of light rail maintenance yards in specified industrial zones. It does not authorize the use of city funds to pay for the project; that would require a separate vote.

The proposed Southwest Corridor line would connect downtown Portland, southwest Portland, the Tigard Triangle, downtown Tigard and Bridgeport Village in Tualatin. The current timeline projects that MAX service could be constructed by 2025. A federal rating for the project will not be complete until at least 2018, and a regional funding vote is expected to occur in November that year.

In addition to the light rail line, the Southwest Corridor Plan would construct sidewalk and biking connections to stations and certain roadway improvements for automobile travel. These investments would create more travel options, easier connections to jobs and education opportunities, and transportation alternatives to increasingly congested roadways.

The route through Tigard for the new MAX line is expected to be decided in the summer of 2017. The Southwest Corridor project is beginning a federal environmental review process that will create a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This will study project impacts and possible ideas to address them.

More information about the Southwest Corridor and Tigard can be found on the city's website at: www.tigard-or.gov/swc.

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