



City of Tigard Press Release

13125 SW Hall Boulevard | Tigard, Oregon 97223 | www.tigard-or.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Nov. 28, 2016

Contact:

Sharon Gavin
Communications Manager
City of Tigard
503-718-2740
sharong@tigard-or.gov

County Elections Officials Certify Approval of Tigard's Light Rail Measure

With all votes counted from the Nov. 8 election, the Washington County Elections Office on Nov. 28, has certified Tigard voters approved Ballot Measure 34-255. All told, 12,683 voted yes, with 12,534 voting no.

The measure clears the way for continued region-wide planning to extend MAX light rail service to Tigard.

“We heard from many Tigard voters on both sides throughout the election that they cared about light rail and transportation issues in Tigard,” said Tigard Mayor John Cook. “Everyone will have multiple opportunities to participate in ongoing efforts to extend light rail service to the southwest metro area, including the City of Tigard. We want our residents to stay involved and to be informed. As the city and region continue to expand, area residents will need transit options to serve the community for decades to come.”

The approved measure means Tigard can now become an active partner in the ongoing process to extend light rail service to Tigard. The planned Southwest Corridor line would connect downtown Portland, southwest Portland, the Tigard Triangle, downtown Tigard and Bridgeport Village in Tualatin. It also allows the city to amend land use regulations that could let a future light rail cross wetlands with proper mitigation, and allow construction of light rail maintenance yards in specified industrial zones. The measure was not an authorization of city funds to pay for the project. That would require a separate vote.

The current timeline proposes 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.

Route selection through Tigard for the new MAX line is expected to be decided in the summer of 2017. The Southwest Corridor project has started 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.

The next public meeting of the Southwest Corridor Steering Committee takes place on Dec. 12, in Tigard City Hall, from 9 to 11 a.m. The committee, which includes Tigard Mayor John Cook, will consider recommendations for the proposed project, including light rail route and station options in Tigard. More information about the Southwest Corridor and Tigard can be found on the city's website at: www.tigard-org.gov/swc.

-###-