

# **Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit Project**

## **Portland, Oregon**

### **New Starts Project Development**

#### **Information Prepared February 2019**

The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet) proposes to implement a light rail transit (LRT) extension to the existing Green Line service along a 12-mile corridor from the Portland State University at the south end of downtown Portland to downtown Tigard and terminating at Bridgeport Village in the City of Tualatin. The corridor includes the Oregon Health and Sciences University, the Portland Veteran's Administration Hospital, the National College of Natural Medicine, the Sylvania campus of Portland Community College, the Tigard Triangle and growing industrial employment centers. The project includes 13 stations and the purchase 36 new light rail vehicles. TriMet estimates the capital cost of the project to be between \$2.6 and \$2.8 billion and plans to seek approximately \$1.3 to \$1.4 billion (approximately 50-percent) in funding from the Capital Investment Grants program.

TriMet reports that transit service to important destinations in the corridor is limited, and demand for transit is increasing due to growth. Limited street connectivity and gaps in pedestrian and bicycle facilities create barriers and unsafe conditions for transit access and active transportation. Lastly, TriMet indicates current travel in the corridor is slow and unreliable on congested roadways. Current forecasts anticipate a significant growth of population (27 percent increase) and employment (25 percent increase) between 2015 and 2035 in the corridor. TriMet anticipates that the Project will help reduce traffic congestion and environmental impacts; provide multimodal access to existing jobs, housing and educational opportunities; and foster opportunities for commercial development.

A locally preferred alternative (LPA) was selected in November 2018, and adopted into the region's fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in December 2018. TriMet anticipates completion of the environmental review process with a Record of Decision in early 2020. TriMet anticipates entry into Engineering in early 2021, receipt of a Full Funding Grant Agreement in Fall 2022, and the start of revenue service in 2027.