

## Eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet

Fact Sheet - December 2007

### Project Background

The eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet will serve as a catalyst for Central Eastside Urban Renewal Area redevelopment and business growth, and is a critical infrastructure improvement for the Burnside Bridgehead project. The eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet project will be constructed on existing roadways from NE 14th Avenue to the Burnside Bridge. Burnside and Couch Streets will be realigned into a one-way couplet system, with eastbound traffic in three lanes on Burnside Street and westbound traffic in two lanes on Couch Street.

In December 2002, the Portland City Council adopted the Burnside Transportation and Urban Design Plan, which provides a vision and strategy for humanizing Burnside from East 14th Avenue to West 24th Place. In addition to outlining specific capital improvements, the plan also recommended a market analysis to determine development potential and financial return related to the completion of the capital improvements. In March 2006, the Portland City Council authorized commencement of engineering for the eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet.

### Key Project Benefits

- Enhance vehicle and transit access and traffic flow through the realignment of Burnside and Couch Streets into a one-way couplet system between the Burnside Bridgehead project and Northeast 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Reduce traffic conflicts between autos and bicycles with a striped bike lane on East Burnside from Martin Luther King Boulevard to Northeast 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Significantly improve pedestrian safety by providing curb extensions to narrow pedestrian crossing distances across Burnside Street, wider sidewalks, and traffic signals at all intersections.
- Assemble two new city blocks for potential redevelopment at Northeast Sandy Boulevard and Northeast 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Improve access to businesses with left turns at all intersections and parking spaces on East Burnside Street.
- Provide for stormwater management with additional plantings.

### Current Project Activities

- Vacation and rededication of portions of Northeast Third Avenue and Northeast Couch Street for construction of the Couplet through the Burnside Bridgehead project.
- Acquisition of Right Of Way properties.
- Refinement of Green Streets design to maximize parking on East Burnside and Northeast Couch Streets.
- Refinement of the proposed street alignment through the Burnside Bridgehead Project.
- Coordination to secure additional project funding for project contingency through the City of Portland Transportation System Development Charge Program, the 2009 Federal Appropriations Bill and the Central Eastside Urban Renewal Area.

Prepared by:

*Investing in Portland's Future*

**PDC**  
PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## Project Funding Strategy

Engineering design and construction of the eastside Couplet is estimated to cost **\$22 million**.

### Confirmed Funding:

|             |                                                                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$4,800,000 | 2006 Federal Earmark                                                                  |
| \$630,000   | Tax Increment Revenue (Fiscal Years 2006-07 and 2007-08 Adopted Budget)               |
| \$250,000   | Oregon Department of Transportation Opportunity Fund Grant                            |
| \$3,000,000 | Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Grant (MTIP)                          |
| \$5,600,000 | City of Portland Transportation System Development Charge Program (TSDC) <sup>1</sup> |

**\$14,280,000 Total Confirmed Funding**

### Requested Funding:

#### Decision Timeline

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Fall/Winter 2008 | \$2,500,000               |
| Fall 2007        | To Be Determined          |
| Summer 2008      | \$3,700,000 - \$9,720,000 |

**\$7,720,000**

#### Type of Funding Resource

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| 2009 Federal Appropriations Bill   |
| Development Contribution           |
| Tax Increment Revenue <sup>2</sup> |

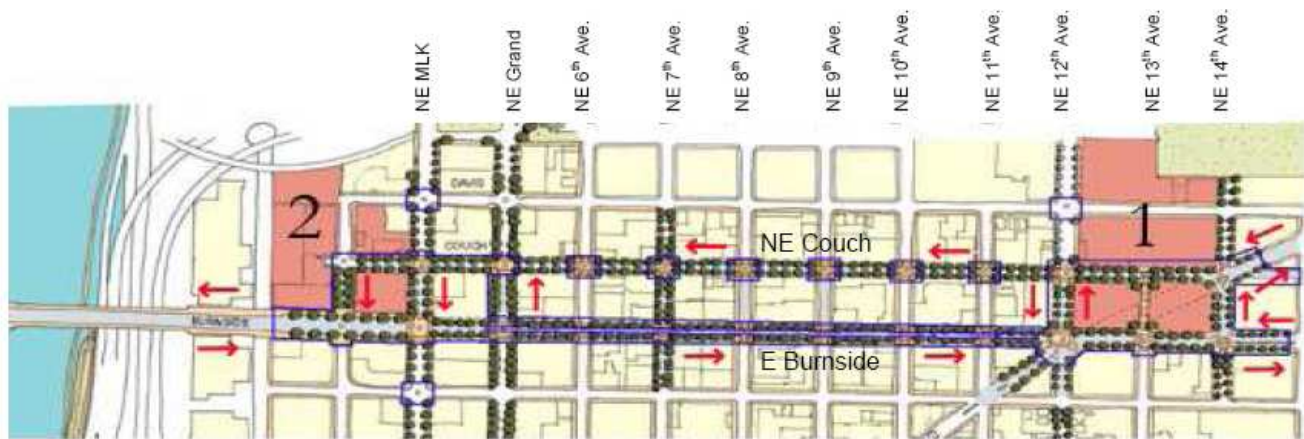
**Total Additional Funding Required**

<sup>1</sup> Based on the TSDC Committee's May 2007 forecast

<sup>2</sup> Additional funding forecasted: \$3.7 million for Fiscal Year 2008-09 and \$6.02 million for Fiscal Year 2009-10. Total Tax Increment Revenue contribution to the Eastside Couplet project will be up to \$10,120,000.

## Project Schedule

- Final Plan Approval Spring 2006
- Funding Strategy Confirmed Fall 2007
- Design Engineering Spring 2007 – Fall 2008
- Bidding & Contracting Fall 2008
- Construction Spring 2009 – Summer 2010



Site 2: Burnside Bridgehead Project

Site 1: Historic 7-Up Site

Concept Diagram of Eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet

Not to Scale

### For more information, please contact:

Chris Armes, Project Manager  
 Portland Office of Transportation  
 503.823.7051 • Chris.Armes@pdxtrans.org

Trang Lam, Project Coordinator  
 Portland Development Commission  
 503.823.3419 • LamT@pdc.us