

# Eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet

## CENTRAL EASTSIDE URBAN RENEWAL AREA

FACT SHEET  
MARCH 2007

### CURRENT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Eastside bicycle connection to the Burnside Bridge – coordination with the Bicycle Advocacy Committee (BAC) to explore connection options.
- Design Engineering Notice to Proceed – 3.19.07
- Street Vacation through the Burnside Bridgehead project – Present to Portland Planning Commission for approval in April 2007.
- Coordination with developers – alignment through the Burnside Bridgehead Project (Site 2 on map below).
- Funding Strategy –
  - Local Improvement District (LID) analysis
  - System Development Charges (SDC) funding
- Design Advisory Committee to be formed.

### 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 E 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Reduce traffic conflicts between autos and bicycles with a striped bike lane on Burnside from Martin Luther King Boulevard to NE 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 NE Sandy Boulevard and NE 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Improve access to businesses with left turns at all intersections and parking spaces on E. Burnside Street.
- Provide for stormwater management with additional plantings.

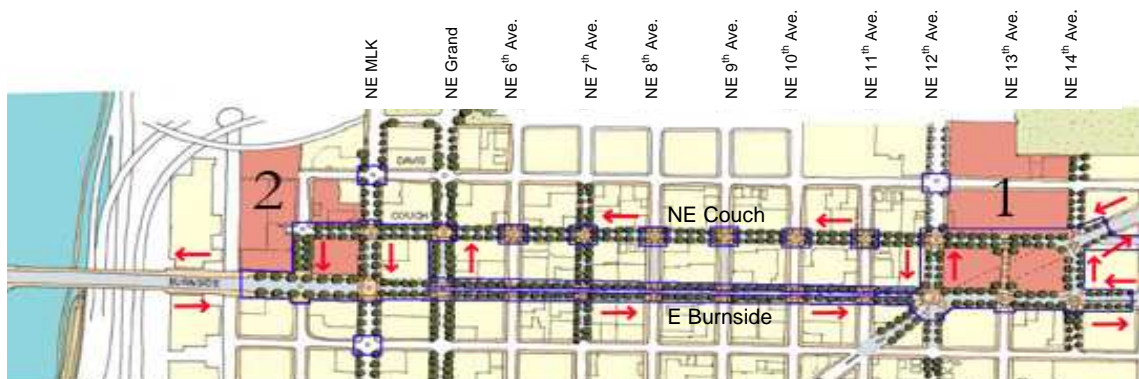


Proposed E. Burnside Street looking east.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue to West 24<sup>th</sup> 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.



Site 2: Burnside Bridgehead Project  
Concept Diagram of Eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet

Site 1: Historic 7-Up Site  
Not to Scale

**PROJECT COST ESTIMATE AND FUNDING**

Engineering and construction of the eastside Couplet is estimated to cost \$22 million (Harper Houf, 2006). Additional Federal funding will be requested to reduce the amount of tax increment funds needed for the project.

**Confirmed Funding:**

\$4,800,000	Federal Earmark
\$330,000	Tax Increment Revenue FY 06-07 Adopted Budget
\$250,000	Or. Dept. of Transportation Opportunity Fund Grant

**\$5,380,000 Total Confirmed Funding**

**Anticipated Funding:**

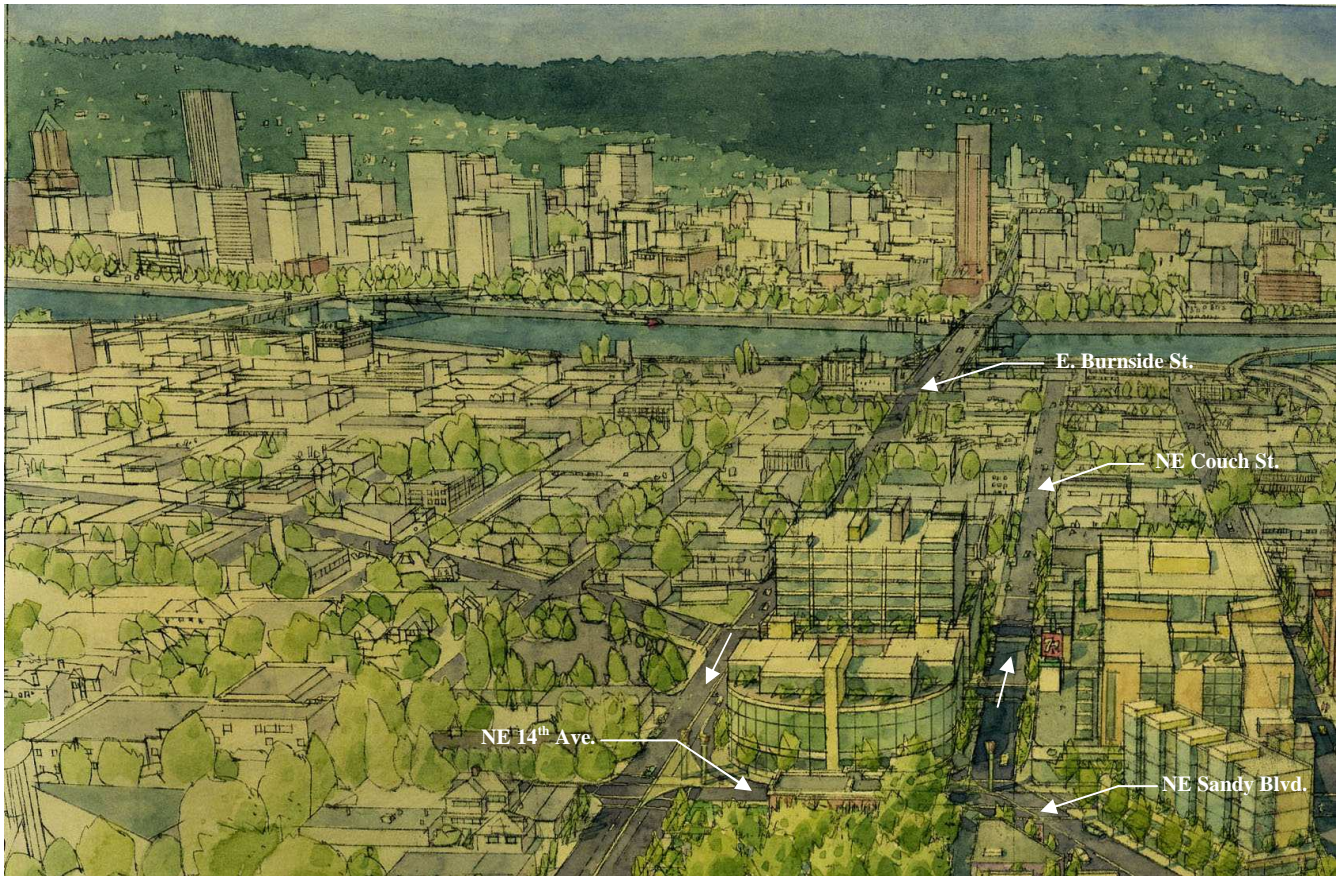
\$3,000,000	Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Grant (MTIP)
\$3,000,000	Development Contribution
\$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000	Transportation System Development Charges
\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Additional Federal Earmarks* (FY 06-07, FY 07-08, FY 08-09)
\$10,120,000	Additional Tax Increment Revenue Proposed FY 07-08 through FY 2009-10

**\$22,000,000 TOTAL PROJECT ESTIMATE**

\* \$2.7 million requested from the 2008 Federal Appropriations Bill.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE** (as of December 2006)

- Final Plan Approval March 2006
- Funding Strategy Confirmed October 2007
- Design Engineering March 2007 – August 2008
- Bidding & Contracting September 2008 – November 2008
- Construction December 2008 – March 2010



Concept Sketch of Eastside Burnside-Couch Couplet

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*Investing in Portland's Future*

