



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What is the Transportation Task Force (TTF)?*

The TTF is a 13 member committee that was established by the Portland Development Commission (PDC) and the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (LTC URAC) in November 2009. The committee includes four representatives from the URAC, five from neighborhood associations, two from business associations, one at large resident, and one at large business owner. A charter has been created to guide the management, activities, and decision making of the committee.

2. *Why was the TTF created?*

The primary focus of the TTF is to create a venue to discuss transportation related issues in the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Area (URA). The TTF functions as a subcommittee of the LTC URAC and makes recommendations to the URAC for endorsement. The TTF has the difficult task of recommending a list of priority transportation projects that fit within an existing \$7.8 million budget (this figure includes the funding available in both the FY 2009-10 Budget and the Five Year Forecast). There are only so many projects the URA can fund and this is a forum to whittle the list and develop a recommendation.

3. *Are the TTF meetings open to the public?*

Yes. All TTF meetings are open to the public and comply with the Oregon public meetings law, as well as PDC policies for public involvement. Public comments can be taken at the meeting and will be recorded in the summary notes for the meeting.

4. *How did the TTF arrive at the preliminary recommendations?*

The TTF has met twice: on December 9, 2009 and on January 13, 2010. The objective of the first meeting was to 1) review the universe of eligible plans and projects contained in those plans, as well as programs that have been adopted or created since the URA was formed in 1998 and 2) draft a list of criteria to guide staff and the TTF on setting priorities. The purpose of the second meeting was to 1) review and agree to the list of criteria, 2) review a list of projects based on an evaluation that applied the criteria, and 3) asked each TTF member to provide a list of projects that they feel are priorities.

5. *How will the TTF recommendations be used?*

Public comments received at the open house will be collected and collated by city staff and forwarded to the TTF for review at the next meeting in February. The preliminary recommendations will be revised based on comments received at the open house and a TTF final review. The TTF recommendation will be forwarded to the LTC URAC for review. The recommendations can be revised, not considered, or endorsed at the March 9, 2010 meeting.

6. *How much has PDC spent on transportation in the Lents Town Center URA?*

PDC has spent \$5.54 million on transportation projects since 2000. In addition, PDC provided \$5 million for construction of the MAX Green Line, for a total investment of \$10.5 million. PDC uses tax increment financing (TIF) to leverage other public transportation funds to construct transportation projects. For example, SE 92nd Ave was reconstructed in 2007 using a grant from the Oregon



Department of Transportation (ODOT) and matching it with URA TIF funds. PDC targets public infrastructure investments to the Lents Town Center, commercial corridors, and surrounding neighborhoods to entice redevelopment of private property, revitalize small businesses, and improve neighborhood livability.

7. *How much public money has been spent on transportation projects in the Lents Town Center URA?*
Based on the list of eligible projects, plans, and programs about \$12.2 million has spent on transportation projects. This estimate includes other funds in addition to TIF. Approximately, another \$6 million in projects has been funded and are in various stages of development and construction. For example, the Foster-Woodstock Streetscape Enhancement project in the town center is a \$4.7 million project that has been funded with a \$1.93 million grant from Metro and matching funds from PDC. This project is currently in the design engineering and acquisition phase.
8. *Can I add another project to the list for future consideration by the TTF?*
No. The projects considered by the TTF come exclusively from City Council-approved transportation and urban renewal plans, so if your project is not identified in one of those plans, then it cannot be considered by the TTF. Also, there is about \$52.5 million gap in unfunded projects. The list of unfunded projects and cost to complete is greater than the available resources. The URA expires in 2020 so the TTF is making a recommendation to fund about \$8 million over the next five years and will have an opportunity to make recommendations for the second five year period. A copy of the approved plans will be available at the open house or can be found on the PDC or PBOT websites.
9. *What if the City Council's priorities change over time?*
As a result of a voter approved change to the City of Portland charter in 2007, the City Council has authority over the PDC budget. If the City Council's priorities change over time, then PDC needs to be responsive to those requests for funds or projects.
10. *How do I get more information on the TTF?*
There are a number of ways to get more information:
 - 1) Contact PDC or PBOT staff.
 - 2) Visit the project website for previous meeting packets:
http://www.pdc.us/ura/lents_town_center/committees/transportation/default.asp.
 - 3) Attend the next TTF meeting on February 10, 2010 6-8 pm at the Ron Russell Middle School, 3955 SE 112th Avenue.

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