



## Information Updates

### Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Advisory Committee

#### 1. Item: Phase IV Lents Street/Sidewalk Improvements

Portland Development Commission (PDC) and Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) are in discussion on an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for consideration of a Lents IV Local Improvement District (LID) for residential street paving. The IGA will generate cost estimates for the Lents IV LID which will help determine how to proceed. Staff will share cost estimates with URAC as soon as they are known.

**For additional information contact:** Sue Lewis at PDC (503) 823-3331, or Andrew Aebi at PDOT, (503) 823-5648

#### 2. Item: 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue of Roses High Crash Corridor Safety Plan update

**Pedestrian Median Island:** Portland Transportation and ODOT are still working out specific details for the installation of 6 new pedestrian median islands proposed for installation along the 82nd Ave. of Roses. The locations will include NE Wygant, NE Thompson, NE Pacific, north of SE Main, south of SE Francis, and SE Cooper.

The SE Francis pedestrian median island will include bold pavement markings, a "Z" shape pedestrian crossing that orients the pedestrian in the direction of oncoming traffic, signage, a pedestrian activated flashing beacon that emits a random strobe alerting drivers to pedestrians, new curb ramps, and more. See *Attachment A: Proposed SE Francis median island*.

The SE Cooper pedestrian median island, and the other four pedestrian median islands, will have signage alerting the driver to the possibility of pedestrians crossing at that location and a pedestrian median island to provide a place of refuge for pedestrians crossing the street. See *Attachment B: Proposed SE Cooper median island*.

It is hoped to have construction on all 6 of the pedestrian median islands begin in January, 2009.

**New Curb Ramps:** Portland Transportation is installing new curb ramps at 19 different locations along the 82nd Ave. of Roses. Installations in Lents include SE Carlton and SE Tolman. There are several other locations in need of new curb ramps, but without additional engineering support and/or right-of-way acquisition we are not able to do the installation at this time. These curbs will remain on a list for future installation.

**Outreach and Education:** Portland Transportation continues to do outreach and education to community members living at or near the 82nd Ave. of Roses.

- Working with teachers at Marshall High School and Madison High School to engage students in a study of pedestrian behavior before and after the pedestrian median islands are installed.
- The 2008 Senior Walking Challenge for adults aged 60+ that live within 5 blocks on either side of the 82nd Ave. of Roses has been completed and all prizes have been distributed.

- Distributing SAFE TRIPS newsletters, transportation safety literature, and safety gear for pedestrians, transit riders, and community members along the 82nd Ave. of Roses.
- Supporting the I BRAKE FOR PEOPLE pedestrian safety campaign with a billboard on SE 82nd Ave. of Roses at Duke and distributing I BRAKE FOR PEOPLE bumper stickers.
- Encouraging young drivers and their parents to attend Graduated Driver Licensing workshops facilitated by Legacy Emanuel Hospital (See *Attachment C: Class Offerings.*)
- We will be scheduling Crosswalk Enforcement Actions at the new pedestrian median islands when they have been installed on the 82nd Ave. of Roses corridor.
- Offering "Portland Walks -- Be Safe" trainings to community members and businesses.

**For additional information contact:** Sharon White, (503) 823-7100, Community and School Traffic Safety Partnership, Portland Office of Transportation

### 3. Item: I-205 Light Rail Project

The MAX Green Line is on track and scheduled to open on-time in September 2009. Stretching 6.5 miles from Gateway to Clackamas Town Center, the project is over 87% complete. The SE Main St, SE Powell Blvd, and SE Holgate Blvd stations are nearly complete, with over 450 trees planted to date by Teufels Landscaping (Attachment D). All seven light rail bridges on the project have been completed. Concrete ties and steel rail have been laid from Gateway to SE Fuller Road and construction vehicles are using the tracks.

The new Park & Ride garage at Clackamas Town Center, built by Howard S. Wright, opened in December for bus lay-overs while construction crews finish the station platform work. The garage contract includes artwork by recently deceased Richard Elliot, whose beautiful pattern work on the elevator shaft and pedestrian bridges can now be seen from the street and from I-205 (Attachment E).

During the summer and fall, South Corridor Constructor's (SCC) crews worked on street improvements on SE 92nd Avenue at the major intersections to ensure that commute traffic flows smoothly once the stations are up and running. Throughout the fall SCC employees were gratified by the knowledge that their \$30,000 contribution plus volunteer labor, equipment and supplies had the new playground at Kelly Elementary up and running for the new school year.

**For additional information contact:** Leslie Hildula, TriMet Capital Projects, Community Affairs, (503) 962-2867

### 4. Item: Ed Benedict Skate Park Plaza

The skate park is nearly complete. The recent cold weather put on hold concrete pouring to create a "manual ledge". As soon as the temperatures reach at least 40 degrees or higher, the ledge can be poured, which will provide a raised bench for park users to "grind" their boards.

As soon as the granite slabs arrive, the park can be completed. Look for a grand opening Spring 2009.

**For additional information contact:** Sue Lewis, Portland Development Commission, (503) 823-3331 or Vann Starr, Portland Parks & Recreation, (503) 823-5766

## **5. Item: Lents Little League Ball Park Improvement Project**

The arctic blast and holidays slowed progress on the park improvements. However, the power and water supplies are now complete and the backstop and outfield posts are installed. At 80% completion, the concrete formwork is nearly done.

The project remains on schedule with an estimated completion date of April 2009. The work that remains includes the concession building, seasonal restroom enclosure, asphalt pathway, concrete flatwork, ancillary site furnishings and baseball field renovations (spectator areas, scoreboard installation, team areas, scorekeepers platform, etc.).

Weather permitting, construction will resume January 5, 2009.

**For additional information contact:** Kevin Cronin, PDC, (503) 823-3305 or Will Brozy, Portland Parks & Recreation, (503) 823-5493

## **6. Item: Foster – Woodstock Streetscape Enhancement Project**

The Foster – Woodstock Streetscape Enhancement Project is a collaborative project between the City of Portland Bureau of Transportation and the Portland Development Commission (PDC) to improve the streetscape and enhance safety on the Foster-Woodstock Boulevard couplet between Southwest 87<sup>th</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> streets in the Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Area.

The project will construct new sidewalks, install street trees, pedestrian scale street lighting and curb extensions to improve the pedestrian environment and facilitate crossing safety. The project will also attempt to restore on-street parking at select locations to add to parking capacity and provide traffic safety.

The three distinct phases of the project are: plan refinement, design engineering and construction. The project is currently in the plan refinement phase that will develop information on existing conditions and develop strategies for design before moving into the design engineering phase in the summer or fall of 2009. Construction on the improvements would begin in 2010. The current project budget is approximately \$2.25 million and is funded by a \$1.9 million Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) grant from METRO and \$350,000 in funding from PDC.

Beginning in the Spring of 2009, PDC will seek public input on the Foster-Woodstock Streetscape project. Businesses, residents and other Lents stakeholders will have opportunities to provide input either in public meetings or informally through letters or email.

**For additional information contact:** Bernie Keroski, PDC, (503) 823-3459 or Rich Newlands, Portland Office of Transportation (503) 823-7780

## **7. Item: Housing Updates**

- PDC's Homeownership Loan and Home Repair Program dollars are flowing out the door this fiscal year. PDC plans an increase in the budgets for both of these programs in the

mid-year (winter) budget amendment process. The increase is made possible by the new resources forecast through the URA Amendment.

- PDC is working with ROSE CDC on the Cambrian Court, an existing rental housing building in need of improvement. PDC is assisting ROSE in the acquisition/rehab project within the rental housing budget. ROSE has acquired the 17 unit existing apartment building near 75th and Steele and will be doing significant rehabilitation and upgrades to the property to solve for some maintenance needs, mold and dry rot, and energy efficiency upgrades. External improvements, like new siding and landscaping, are also planned. While the apartments were not previously affordable housing, they were fairly low rent, so this is a cost-effective opportunity to preserve some affordability, improve existing housing stock and living conditions, especially in the new Foster Road corridor area of the URA. PDC and ROSE expect that the purchase and rehab should be complete in early 2009. The current estimate on the TIF loan for the project is \$1.3 million and the project fully counts towards the rental goals of the TIF Set Aside, as well as URA Plan that calls for the rehab of existing housing stock.
- The State of Oregon recently received funding through the federal housing bill. The City of Portland will receive \$3.9 million to be used for purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties, or for assistance to buyers purchasing foreclosed properties. The City is leading the decision on where/how to invest this funding to achieve maximum benefit and on a very quick timeline (by January). The State of Oregon has set target areas for the funding where foreclosures have been high, including several census tracts in and around the Lents URA. According to the housing bill rules, funding cannot be used for foreclosure assistance or prevention for existing homeowners. PDC and the City are looking for other sources of local funds that could be used for foreclosure prevention. Staff will provide updates on this search.
- ROSE CDC is completing one of their new homeownership development projects at 106th and Schiller, and hosted an open house in December. This is one of 4 homes that ROSE and Portland Community Land Trust received TIF funding to construct. Portland Youth Builders provided construction assistance, which is a great way that Lents URA investments have complemented each other and provided even more job training opportunities for young people. ROSE will send out more information about the opening soon.
- Habitat for Humanity is planning to start construction on their Martins Street project (funded with TIF dollars in Lents Town Center URA) and is scheduling “Team Builders” volunteer days between January and May 2009. If a community group or business would like to participate in one of these build events, please contact Jennifer Twyman Perkins at Habitat [jennifer@habitatportlandmetro.org].

**For additional information contact:** Sara Culp, PDC, (503) 823-3239

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For additional information on Lents programs and projects please visit <http://www.pdc.us> or <http://www.portlandonline.com> anytime.

Also see PDC on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/PDXDevelopmentComm>