Making the Land Use – Light Rail Connection

Andy Cotugno
Metro
Rail~Volution 2010
Making the Land Use, Transportation, Air Quality Connection

Gas Crisis
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180 days of air quality violations
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The Pacific Northwest
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The Oregon Story

"There is a shameless threat to our environment and to the whole quality of life: unfettered despoiling of the land. Sagebrush subdivisions, coastal 'condomania'..."

Governor Tom McCall
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The Oregon Story

“...and the ravenous rampage of suburbia in the Willamette Valley all threaten to mock Oregon's status as the environmental model for the nation.”

Tom McCall’s address to the Legislature, January 8, 1973
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Senate Bill 100

- Legislature adopts pioneering 1973 statewide planning program to limit sprawl and protect forest and farms

- Legislation requires local plans to meet statewide goals; creates LCDC

- Urbanization now focused inside urban growth boundaries
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Downtown in Decline

- Freeways focusing growth in suburbs
- Downtown buildings razed to construct more parking lots
- Urban renewal replaces vibrant neighborhoods with sterile high-rise apartments
Buses Operated in Clogged Streets
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They paved paradise...

Plans to expand this parking lot to 10 floors in the heart of downtown...
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... produced community demand for the construction of Pioneer Courthouse Square
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Highway Revolt

- Harbor Freeway removed in 1976 to make way for Tom McCall Waterfront Park
- Mount Hood Freeway withdrawn in favor of light rail transit along the Banfield
- Shift freeway money to multi-modal projects
Portland’s Backlash

- In Portland, a backlash forms against a plan for massive freeway building that is already destroying urban neighborhoods.
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Light Rail Opens

- Banfield light rail opens in late 1986, becoming the centerpiece of downtown plans in Portland and Gresham
- Westside light rail to Hillsboro begins in 1998
- Airport service begins in 2001
- Interstate in 2004
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First Avenue Before
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1986 Light Rail Transit

Eastside Light Rail constructed from Mount Hood Freeway funds
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Opposition Forms

- Western bypass freeway plan in rapidly growing Washington County
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2040 Concepts

- Base Case
- Concept A
- Concept B
- Concept C

2040 Growth Concept adopted in 1995
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2040 Growth Concept

- 50-year vision for managing region’s growth
- Incorporates best parts of “Concepts for Growth” options
- Kicks off a major effort to enact the new regional vision through local plans
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2040 Theme: Growth in Centers

- Compact urban centers built to human scale
- Mixed housing and commerce served with good transit
- Focus of civic activities and public services
- Parking ratios established
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2040 Theme: Protect Industry

- Maintain freight mobility on highways
- Ensure quality freight access to ports and industrial areas from region’s highway and rail network
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2040 Theme:
Protect Rural Areas

- Create Green Corridors along rural state highways
- Mitigate urban overflow on rural routes
- Maintain rural separation between Metro region and neighbor cities
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2040 Theme: Nature in the City

- Network of parks, trails and open spaces
- Protections for streams and upland natural areas
- Green Streets - designs that minimize runoff
- Manage hazardous waste to protect streams and groundwater
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PORTLAND STREETCAR SYSTEM CONCEPT PLAN
- Concept Streetcar Corridors with Existing and Planned Alignments
- Comprehensive Plan Streetcar Corridors
- MAX Light Rail: Existing and Planned
- Portland Aerial Tram
- TriMet Bus (April 2009)
MAX provides 34% of weekday transit trips

MAX ridership has increased 19 consecutive years

96.9 million boardings
- 63 million bus trips
- 34 million MAX trips
- 315,500 average daily boardings

23rd largest metro with 8th largest annual transit ridership per capita
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Large and Very Large Urban Areas in the U.S. In 2005
Sorted by Urbanized Area Population
Portland, OR is Ranked 33rd Out of 39 Areas

Large and Very Large Urban Areas in the U.S. In 2005
Sorted by Annual Transit Riders Per Capita
Portland, OR is Ranked 8th Out of 39 Areas
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VMT per capita
U.S. and Portland

![Graph showing VMT per capita for U.S. and Portland from 1990 to 2003]
### Making the Land Use, Transportation, Air Quality Connection

Texas Transportation Institute
Portland Metro Area Rankings

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