



CITY OF OREGON CITY

Staff Report

625 Center Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
503-657-0891

To: City Commission
From: Public Works Director John M. Lewis, PE

Agenda Date: 06/11/2024

SUBJECT:

Oregon City Transit Center Redesign Project Presentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

City Commission provide feedback on the proposed redesign of the Transit Center and provide staff guidance on any issues or concerns that should be addressed as part of the project intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

BACKGROUND:

Current Transit Center

Beginning in 1980, TriMet, Clackamas County and Oregon City studied the needs for an Oregon City Transit Center, resulting in a recommendation to construct one. In 1982 TriMet received a \$812,000 grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) to design and construct this project.

In 1985, a technical team (consisting of staff from Oregon City, Clackamas County, Oregon Department of Transportation, Metro, TriMet and Oregon City Downtown Association) completed a Transit Transfer Center Siting Project in Downtown OregonCity. This work included review of the planning process, goals and objectives, alternative site evaluation, and preliminary analysis of two preferred alternatives. During this work, 13 alternatives were reviewed in the downtown area. The Siting Project ultimately recommended the 11th Street site.

In 1988, TriMet completed preliminary engineering and cost estimates for the project. In February 1989, the City passed a resolution supporting the selection of the project site and directed staff to coordinate with TriMet in preparing an IGA.

In April 1989, the City Commission approved an IGA for the new Oregon City Transit Center Project. This IGA permitted the project's use of the 11th Street and Moss Street right-of-way, provided funding commitments for the project and specified the maintenance, operation and liability responsibilities for the project.

Transit Center Capacity Need

For years the staff from Oregon City, Clackamas County, Metro and TriMet have acknowledged the need for increased transit services and the transit center capacity in Oregon City and the surrounding areas. This has been noted in many documents over the years, including TriMet's Southeast Service Enhancement Plan, Clackamas County Transit Development Plan, Oregon City's Transportation System Plan, Forward Together 1.0 & 2.0, TriMet Express Bus/Limited Stop Service Study. These documents involved coordination efforts with other transit providers interested in utilizing the Oregon City Transit Center.

In April 2022, Oregon City Mayor, Lyles-Smith provided a letter of support for federal funding for the Oregon City Transit Center improvements. This letter acknowledged that funding would allow critical upgrades to expand bus layover capacity and operator facilities that are essential to support transit service expansions in Clackamas County. TriMet was awarded a \$5M federal earmark as part of the 2023 federal budget.

Transit Center Redesign

TriMet and Oregon City staff have partnered together since 2020 on this redesign. The redesigned transit center supports increased transit service in Oregon City and Clackamas County by TriMet and partner transit agencies. It also provides an upgraded bus driver restroom to support TriMet workforce recruitment and retention efforts. The project also includes improvements to bus stop amenities and shelters to create a more welcoming environment for riders.

Assistant City Attorney, Carrie Richter has completed a review memo of the project (attached) and confirmed the following:

- The project will require a permanent Obstruction Permit. Oregon City Municipal Code (OCMC) 12.04.120 does not allow permanent obstructions in any public street or alley in the City, without obtaining approval for a right-of-way permit from the City Commission by passage of a resolution.
- The project is exempt from Land Use Review. Transportation facilities are permitted outright in the Mixed-Use Downtown zone (OCMC 17.34.020). The improvements are within the right-of-way. Site plan and design review does not apply to activities occurring in the right of way (OCMC 17.80).

Next Steps

Staff will work with TriMet to review the project construction plans for the public improvements through a right-of-way permit, issued by Public Works.

Staff will also work with TriMet to develop an IGA that addresses the project's use of the right-of-way - specifying the ownership, maintenance, operation and liability responsibilities for the project between the two entities. This IGA will be brought to City

Commission, along with a resolution, to address the permanent obstruction in the right-of-way.