



# Durham News Notes



Fall 2019

## SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR LIGHT RAIL

The SW Corridor Light Rail Project will bring high-capacity transit to one of the most congested travel corridors in our region. As growth continues to increase, light rail gives people an option that is fast, reliable and affordable. Planning has been underway since 2011 and project partners are now reassessing the scope of the project in relation to its target.

The current cost estimate is \$2.87 billion, about \$462 million over the amount assumed available for funding. Projects of this size typically go through cycles where initial cost estimates are revised based on stakeholder input, advancing design, and updates to projected interest rates and construction costs. This project is no different, but potentially even more challenging due to the corridor's topography.

Partners are working together to explore potential cost reduction strategies and keep the project on schedule. The magnitude of the cost gap means the team must find significant ways to reduce the amount of infrastructure the project will build, and potentially increase funding.

Because the goal is for the project to provide the maximum benefit by extending as far south as Bridgeport, efforts are focused on cost reduction strategies that achieve the full-length project. At the same time, the project's Final Environmental Impact Statement is required to identify a Minimum Operable Segment. A MOS is a potential shorter first phase of the project that could be constructed if funding is not available for the full project to Bridgeport.

To reduce the cost of the project, staff are exploring all possible options, leaving no stone unturned. This wide range of ideas includes reexamining options studied in the Draft EIS.

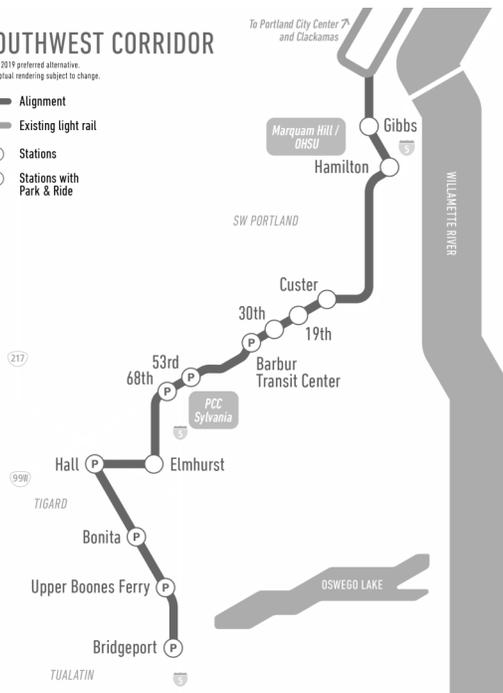
In September, the project Steering Committee (which includes Mayor Gery Schirado) reviewed feasible options. In October, the Steering Committee is expected to define the project scope for the larger package that Metro is assembling for a potential regional transportation funding measure in November 2020.

Beyond October, there are still years of design work and community engagement ahead. In early 2020, a Draft Conceptual Design Report will illustrate preliminary designs. Project partners will seek community input on this draft to help inform a final report and guide ongoing design efforts in the coming years.

### SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR

March 2019 preferred alternative. Conceptual rendering subject to change.

- Alignment
- Existing light rail
- Stations
- Ⓟ Stations with Park & Ride



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## RECOGNIZING RICK NORTH AND RICH SESSIONS



The last edition of Durham News Notes was remiss in acknowledging the leadership of Rick North and Rich Sessions to the successful purchase of Durham's Last Stand - the Kingsgate Woods open space. With the help of many Durham citizens, Rick North and Rich Session spearheaded the effort to pass both bond measures. Their leadership and persistence help secure the beautiful open space for all Durham residents. Thank you Rick North and Rich Sessions!

## HOME SECURITY SYSTEMS

Security systems can protect your home and provide peace of mind to homeowners. However, they can also be problematic to police and emergency dispatchers. Over 90% of security alarms called into the police are false. False alarms burden the police by preventing them from responding to genuine calls for service. It is important to reduce the number of false alarms so that police will have more time to perform other necessary services and maintain an effective police response.



Unlike other cities, Durham does not require homeowners to obtain alarm permits for security systems that summon police or make noise. Instead, Durham prohibits property owners from transmitting more than three false alarms per address in a twelve-month period. Every month, the city reviews Durham police calls and maintains a database of false alarms. If your home

security system generates more than 3 false alarms in a 12-month period, the City will contact you to let you know. Any additional false alarms would subject to a fine of \$720 per violation.

Here are some things you can do to prevent false alarms:

- Know your password.
- Keep contact information with your provider up to date.
- Communicate with anyone you share a key with — the cat sitter, your aunt, or the friend who visits once a year — to let them know you've set the alarm and that they need to turn it off.
- Learn how your system can trigger a false alarm.
- Don't forget your shut-off code. Make sure you keep the code in a place where you can find it. Practice how to cancel a false alarm.
- Make sure everyone who lives in your home knows how to use the alarm system properly. That includes arming the system, shutting it off, and communicating with the alarm company. It's a good idea to practice once a month.
- Dust your sensors on a regular basis (but not when it's armed).

## FALL LEAF RECYCLING

Durham residents may dispose of leaves from their property in a free dumpster available on **November 16-17, November 23-24, and December 7-8** at Durham City Park.



Please ***do not overfill the dumpsters or leave extras outside the dumpsters.*** When piles or bags of leaves are left outside the dumpster, the City has to pay to have someone clean them up and haul them away. Unfortunately, if leaves are left outside the dumpster, the city may not be able to provide this service in the future.

Because the contents will be composted, the dumpsters are for leaves and needles only. Paper leaf disposal bags are ok but please do not put woody debris, branches, or plastic bags in the dumpsters.

## HELP REDUCE LOCALIZED FLOODING

Residents are encouraged to clear leaves and other debris from storm drains near their property. Clearing leaves, limbs, and debris from the catch basins can help keep storm drains flowing at peak performance during wet weather. Remember, never remove a storm drain cover or attempt to clean a drain located in a busy street. If a blockage can't be safely cleared and the roadway is flooding, call Clean Water Services at 503.681.3600.

## EMILY BAKER RETURNS TO DURHAM

The City welcomes back Emily Baker as the new administrative assistant. Emily is replacing Lynn Schroder who left in September for a full-time position with the City of West Linn.

Emily Baker grew up in Durham and served on the Durham Planning Commission from 2017 through 2018. Emily graduated from Portland State University with a degree in political science.

Other recent events:

- The City approved a \$75 fee for park special use permits.
- The City Council and Planning Commission held a workshop on the Tree Protection Ordinance.



## DURHAM PROFILE—MAYOR GERY SCHIRADO

Durham's Mayor Gery Schirado is a busy guy. Although Durham is a small fry in regional politics, Mayor Schirado is a hands-on problem solver keeping on top of issues affecting Durham. In a typical month, Mayor Schirado attends 6 different official meetings. His primary concerns for Durham are traffic on Upper Boones Ferry Road and maintaining Durham's quality of life. He provides a steady perspective of a small city in the midst of a large, metropolitan area. However, Durham is not an island; the concerns of Durham are similar to other suburban communities. His longtime participation in regional issues, thoughtful analysis, and fair-minded approach are among the reasons he received the Mayor of the Year Award in 2016 from the Oregon Mayors' Association.

Recently, Mayor Schirado testified before the Oregon Legislature on the effects of HB 2001 that requires cities to allow additional types of housing within the residential zone. His top concern is the effect on traffic on Upper Boones Ferry Road.

Mayor Schirado is serving on the TriMet SW Corridor Steering Committee. He has been participating with other elected officials on the Southwest Corridor Steering Committee since the early inception of a light rail system to the area.

Mayor Schirado is also a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Consortium, the Washington County Mayors Group, and the Washington County Coordinating Council.

Durham is lucky to have an active Mayor who participates in regional issues. He welcomes citizens to reach out to him with comments, questions, or concerns. Contact him at [mayor.cityofdurham@comcast.net](mailto:mayor.cityofdurham@comcast.net)



**Mayor Schirado with State Representative Rachel Prusak at Durham City Hall in late summer 2019**

## DURHAM PARK UPDATES

All new equipment is coming to Durham City Park! The existing equipment will be removed and replaced beginning on November 11th. The new features will include play structures for children aged 2 - 5 and 5-12 along with a net climbing structure, a swing set, and a tire swing. The construction is scheduled from **November 11th to November 19th**.

In other recent news; the picnic tables and benches in the covered pavilion have been refurbished by Boy Scout Drake Carlston. He replaced all the wood boards and painted them for an Eagle Scout project in September. Durham is thankful for all of his hard work.



## *City of Durham*

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## **NEWS NOTES**

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

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### **Getting Your Financial House in Order**

Fall is the time of year to get ready for all types of disasters and weather emergencies. Fires, earthquakes, floods, and winter storms are just a few reasons to gather emergency supplies, build an emergency kit, and plan an escape route. Those steps are essential to preparation, but two others are equally important and often overlooked – creating a home inventory, reviewing insurance coverage, and gathering important documents. Having the right insurance coverage and an up-to-date home inventory are critical to financial resiliency. Having access to important documents is essential.

#### **Task 1 Build Your Home Inventory**

Take photos of each room in your home. Pay close attention to what is on walls, in closets, and in storage spaces.

Group similar items together when taking pictures.

Write a brief description of each item. Note the make, model, price, and other details that might help when filing a claim. Take pictures of important receipts.

#### **Task 2 Review Your Insurance Coverage**

Discuss your policies with your insurance company or agent. Make sure you have the right coverage for all types of disasters.

Know what to expect when you file a claim and how long it may take to receive compensation for a loss. Find out what information your insurance company would need in case of claim.

#### **Task 3 Gather Important Documents**

Personal, financial, insurance, medical, and other records are crucial for starting the process of recovery quickly and efficiently. Store electronic copies of important documents in a password-protected format on a removable flash or external hard drive in your fireproof and waterproof box or safe, or consider using a secure cloud-based service.

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