

DIVISION TRANSIT PROJECT
November 2017
Open House Summary



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1/25/2018

Executive Summary

With the design of the Division Transit Project at approximately 30 percent, project staff hosted three open houses and an online open house in November 2017 to share the project's current status. Both versions of the open house provided the opportunity for the public to review:

- ▶ Project proposed route and station locations
- ▶ Six station types
- ▶ Project schedule

There were three in-person open house events held on November 6, 8 and 9, 2017 in Gresham, Inner Division and Outer Division, respectively. The three open houses had more than 220 attendees, resulting in more than 100 comments regarding the project. The online open house, optimized for mobile devices, was active from November 13 through November 27, 2017, resulting in nearly 80 submissions related to the same project design information as the in-person open house events.

The top three concerns stated in public comments were:

1. Desire for dedicated bus lanes, slower auto speeds and buffered bike/pedestrian infrastructure, especially in East Portland
2. Desire to relocate the station at SE 51st Avenue to SE 50th Avenue and Division, a hub where there is density, commercial uses and future development
3. Possible inadequate access for seniors and people with disabilities due to distances between stations

Each event provided valuable public feedback and helped the project team refine the design for the final 30% submittal. A summary of the most common themes shared at the open houses follows.

Open House Promotion

The in-person and online open houses were promoted through various channels. Below is a list of how each event was shared with the public.

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Newspaper Advertisements

An invitation to the open house was advertised in community newspapers throughout the project corridor:

- ▶ Portland Tribune
- ▶ Portland Mercury
- ▶ Gresham Outlook
- ▶ The Skanner
- ▶ Mid-County Memo
- ▶ El Hispanic online (Spanish language)
- ▶ Chinese Times (Chinese language)

Postcards

Postcards announcing the open house were mailed to 5,200 residents and businesses along the corridor on October 23, 2017.

Website

TriMet maintained a project website at trimet.org/division that linked to the online open house and promoted the in-person open houses.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

Email Promotion

Email invitations were sent on November 13 and November 20, 2017 to subscribers of Line 4-Division and to subscribers of Division Transit Project. Emails were sent to more than 32,000 subscribers.

Facebook

TriMet advertised the online open house on the agency's Facebook page on November 21, 2017. The post reached 9,764 followers and was shared, liked or commented on 179 times.

Format

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

The in-person open house events allowed the public to review roll maps and speak to project staff to learn about the 80 stations along four distinct segments in the 14-mile long corridor. Comments were collected on notes placed on roll maps representing the different segments.

The segments included:

- ▶ Segment 1: Downtown Portland
- ▶ Segment 2: Inner Division
- ▶ Segment 3: Outer Division
- ▶ Segment 4: Gresham



November 2017 in-person open house.

A general comment form was available as an opportunity to submit feedback about the project.

All open house materials were available in five languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Russian. Translators for each non-English language were present at the open house or available upon request.

When feasible, TriMet collaborated with partners to highlight other projects to maximize community outreach efforts. The Portland Bureau of Transportation was present at the November 8th event to talk about the agency's Lincoln Harrison Greenway Project, and also joined project staff at the November 9th open house to talk about the Outer Division Multimodal Safety Project. Staff worked collectively to answer public questions.

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

The online open house was available on the project website trimet.org/division from November 13 through November 27, 2017. The online open house shared information about station locations, design considerations and station types by segment. The online comment form mirrored the in-person open house.

Comments

In total, 75 online comment forms, 25 in-person comment forms, and 75 post-it note comments were collected. Below is a summary of responses received throughout the comment period.

OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS

Respondents were asked if there were anything they would like to tell the project team about station design and location for the draft 30% design. Below are some of the major themes and comments shared by respondents.

Inner Division

- ▶ Support for Tilikum Crossing, *Bridge of the People*, as the project's river crossing, which provides improved access to jobs, educational institutions and health care facilities
- ▶ Concerns about the local funds being spent for Union Pacific Railroad modernization upgrades
- ▶ Elimination of left turn from eastbound Division to northbound SE 12th Avenue received with both support and concern
- ▶ Concerns about more traffic in the neighborhood if left turn is prohibited on SE 12th Avenue
- ▶ Idea to create a couplet between SE Division and SE Clinton, from SE 12th to SE 50th Avenue
- ▶ Need to be attentive to businesses' needs in Inner Division—including loading zones, parking and garbage pick up
- ▶ Need for Division to be repaved from SE Cesar Chavez Boulevard to SE 50th Avenue
- ▶ The station at SE 51st Avenue should be located at SE 50th Avenue and Division—this is the major hub where there is density, commercial uses and future development
- ▶ Concerns around bicycles/pedestrians and bus conflicts at SE 68th Avenue and SE 76th Avenue stations—need protected bike lanes and more crosswalks

Outer Division

- ▶ Bus only lanes and protected bike lanes needed in this area
- ▶ Desire for sufficient U-turns through the Jade District (SE 82nd to SE 92nd avenues)—especially at SE 89th Avenue and I-205 ramps at SE 92nd Avenue
- ▶ Concerns about impacts to traffic in Jade District and how vehicles will be able to turn off and on to Division from side streets
- ▶ Desire for safe pedestrian crossing at SE 125th Avenue
- ▶ Questions about how project will address gentrification in East Portland

General project

- ▶ Overall support for project design and consolidation of stops, prioritizing locations near destinations
- ▶ Support for the project station design options at approximately 30% and encouraging same treatments else were in the region
- ▶ Station distances do not provide access for seniors and people with disabilities
- ▶ Desire to put bus only lanes across the Hawthorne Bridge and use that bridge option

- ▶ Dedicated bus lanes equal real rapid transit
- ▶ Consider electric buses, both for their environmental benefits and for their performance in winter weather
- ▶ Careful design will be needed to reduce conflicts between bicycles/ pedestrians and bus
- ▶ Concerns about safety and sight impacts with 60-foot buses on Division Street
- ▶ Concerns about removing transit service on SE 7th Avenue from Division Street to Hawthorne Boulevard