



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Land Use Services**  
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** June 1, 2018  
**To:** Portland Design Commission  
**From:** Benjamin Nielsen, Development Review, 503-823-7812  
**Re:** BRIEFING: Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project – Draft Environmental Impact Statement Staff Memo for June 7, 2018

The Southwest Corridor Light Rail Project will extend light rail from Downtown Portland to Bridgeport Village in Tigard. Construction may begin in 2021. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project will be released to the public for comment in mid-June 2018. Representatives from Trimet, PBOT, and Metro will brief the Design Commission with an overview and current status of the project, including discussion of the Initial Route Proposal, proposed station areas, and standard elements in the right-of-way.

You were sent a two-page handout showing the Initial Route Proposal of the proposed light rail extension. Additional routes were studied and will be included in the full DEIS.

The Marquam Hill/OHSU station connection from SW Barbur Blvd to the OHSU Marquam Hill campus may be of particular interest to the Commission, as this connection will require Type 3 Design Review approval, due to its location within the Design Overlay of the Terwilliger Design District. Though the proposed design of the connection has not yet been presented, the Commission should be aware that it will need to meet the *Terwilliger Parkway Design Guidelines*, which place a heavy emphasis on preserving the landscaped character of the parkway.

Portions of SW Barbur Blvd have also been added to the Design Overlay zone as of May 24<sup>th</sup>, and portions of the line extending south from Downtown and along SW Barbur are within or along the Design Overlay zone as well.

Public comments on the DEIS will be accepted from mid-June through July, and the Commission may choose to submit formal comments, if desired.

In addition to the required design review for the proposed connection to the OHSU campus, light rail project staff plan on returning for additional briefings before the Design Commission.

**Attachments:** SW Corridor Light Rail Project – Light rail options: initial route proposal (printed copy sent separately, also available here: [https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2018/03/12/initial-route-proposal-handout-031208\\_2.pdf](https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2018/03/12/initial-route-proposal-handout-031208_2.pdf))

**Links:** Southwest Corridor Plan homepage  
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/southwest-corridor-plan>