

**From:** [Benn, Guy](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** 05/03/23 CC meeting - Item #354 - TriMet testimony materials  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 9:53:02 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[230503\\_PCC public testimony TM\\_item#354.pdf](#)

---

Hello,

Please see the attached materials in support of TriMet's public testimony on Item #354.

I will attend the meeting in person to provide testimony and be available to answer any questions.

Thank you,

Guy



**GUY BENN** (he/him)  
Program Manager  
TriMet, Transit-Oriented Development  
Desk: 503-962-2190; Mobile: 971-347-5649  
Email: [benng@trimet.org](mailto:benng@trimet.org)

\*Check out our recently published Regional TOD Plan: <https://trimet.org/tod/pdf/tod-regional-plan.pdf>

**Written Testimony submitted by Guy Benn on behalf of the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet) for Street Vacation Ordinance (VAC-10134). First reading before Portland City Council 05/03/2023 (Item #354).**

Good morning Mr. Mayor, Council Commissioners

My name is Guy Benn, and I am the Program Manager of Transit-Oriented Development at TriMet. I am here today on behalf of TriMet to express its strong support for Item #354 – the Ordinance to vacate a portion of NE 42nd Ave south of NE Halsey St.

Today's proposed street vacation is a key step in delivering a twenty-plus-year vision to bring housing and density to the Hollywood Transit Center. Originally identified as an opportunity site in BPS' Hollywood and Sandy Plan published by in 2000, TriMet has been working diligently with the City of Portland bureaus, public partners, and the community to realize this vision.

In 2019, TriMet partnered with non-profit developer BRIDGE Housing, to create a transformative transit-oriented development that can deliver 224-units of permanent family-focused affordable housing in a well-amenitized neighborhood. In September 2021, the project was awarded \$29 million from the Metro/PHB bond program, the largest funding award to date for an affordable housing project in Portland.

In addition to expanded housing options for our community, this street vacation will allow TriMet to invest over \$15.0 million into new transit infrastructure and community benefits. Detailed in Exhibit A, these improvements include:

1. A new improved stair & ramp that serves the full spectrum of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling to and from the MAX station and connecting Hollywood with surrounding neighborhoods
2. A new public plaza/paseo space improving access and providing a venue for local events
3. New bus facilities on Halsey Street and NE 42nd Avenue, including a bus-bulb-in to accommodate articulated buses and allow services to travel north on NE 42nd Avenue
4. Safer and improved crosswalks across Halsey Street. Working with PBOT we are excited to deliver an entirely new pedestrian crossing at Halsey and NE 41st Avenue
5. A new substation to power MAX trains, replacing the 37-year-old substation currently on site
6. A new 20' wide access to the BES sewer located south of the site. This access will also provide access to the Sullivan's Gulch Trail when it is built
7. An inclusive design ethos and tribute to the honor the lives lost in May 2017

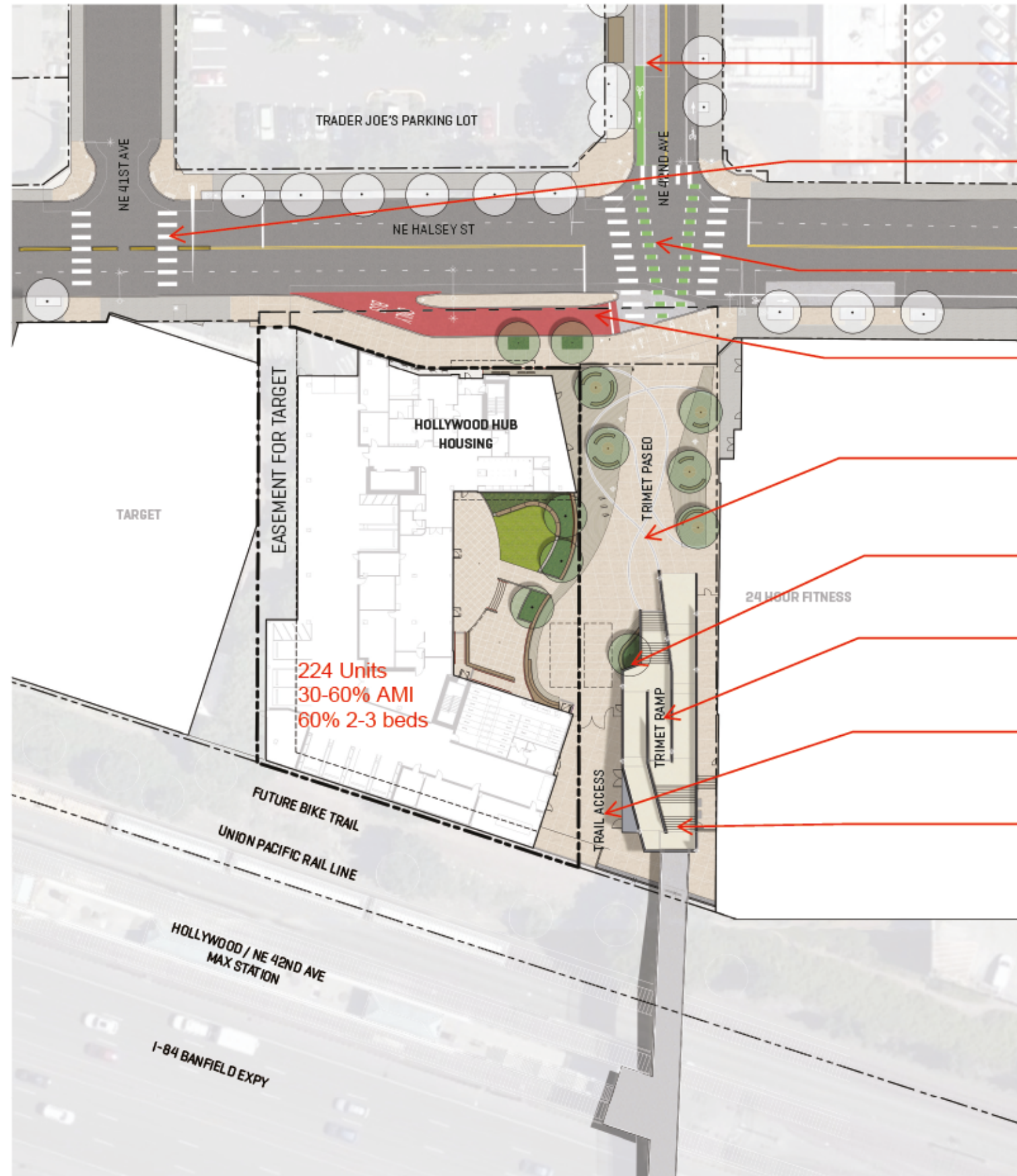
TriMet is very grateful for the support at all levels from staff at PHB, BDS, BES, Parks, and PBOT, amongst others. This is an important and very complex project that addresses many climate, equity, and community goals. Our team is excited to witness how high-density, family-oriented, affordable TOD can bring safety, housing, activation, and new opportunities to this part of Hollywood, and it would not happen without City support.

We hope Council can approve this street vacation ordinance. Members of the TriMet and BRIDGE team are available today to answer questions as needed, and thank you.

05/03/23 - Item #354  
(VAC-10134)

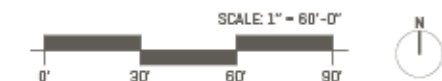
TriMet Public Testimony

### Exhibit A - Infrastructure Improvements



- New 42nd Ave bus stop and bike lane
- New NE 41st Ave crosswalk
- Improved Halsey Street crosswalk
- New bus stop
- New public space & walkway
- Permanent 05/17 tribute
- New stair and ramp (ADA compliant)
- New BES/future trail access
- New substation (below ramp)

LEGEND  
 - - - DESIGN REVIEW SITE BOUNDARY



**City Council Meeting - Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:30 a.m.**

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
354-01	Guy	Benn
354-02	Martin	Leung