

News in the Corridor

November 2005

This email contains a mix of short news-bits and introductions for longer articles.
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and The Boeing Company
present

The Columbia Corridor Association's 19th Annual Meeting

**7:30 am – 9:30 am
Friday, December 9, 2005**

Comments by Congressman Earl Blumenauer
State of the Association by CCA President Steve Mason

Keynote by University of Oregon Economics Professor Tim Duy
Sponsored by  **PACIFIC POWER**



In 2005, the economy was growing and unemployment was steadily falling. The nation and Oregon were on relatively stable footing. Then came Katrina. As she swept ashore, the economy experienced a shock. Looking into 2006, it becomes clear the hurricane impacts and the policy responses will play a significant role in the evolution of economic activity. Tim will explore how these factors affect the economic outlook for 2006 with special attention to the emerging energy challenges exposed by this summer's hurricanes and how they affect Oregon.

You are cordially invited to help us celebrate 19 years of CCA achievement!
Call 503.287.8686 for Reservations

PDOT Keeping Busy in the Columbia Corridor

The Portland Department of Transportation has begun a number of projects in the Corridor. Not the least of which is an effort to improve signage.

The city is actively looking for sign suggestions that will improve traffic flow and minimize confusion. One such comment came at a Portland Freight Committee meeting a few months ago. A property owner noticed that a number of trucks were using his parking area to turn around. After looking into the situation, PDOT installed new signs to help the confused truck drivers find I-5.

If you have suggestions for sign improvements, contact CCA at 503.287.8686. In addition, if you notice any problems at project areas, please contact us. The people that drive the Corridor daily are the true traffic experts and PDOT wants to hear from you.

Other projects in the works:

- Work is beginning on [NE 33rd Ave. bridges](#) over the slough and Lombard
- Improved signals installed on N. Columbia Blvd at Argyle
- New signal technology to be installed at Columbia Blvd and MLK
- The [East End Connector](#) project went to bid November 14th
- Improved signage efforts throughout the Corridor

Work on the Lombard crossing should begin in late February or early March of 2006. All construction should be completed by October 2006.

If you have questions about the project, please call Paul Gornick, project manager, at 503-823-7060.

A map of the Lombard detour can be found at columbiacorridor.org. There will be no detour necessary for the slough crossing bridge repair.

New Bridge Opens in South Rivergate

The \$18 million South Rivergate Overcrossing is completed and ready to save Rivergate businesses \$1.4 million annually in reduced delays. Reduced air emissions from the 12,000 vehicles per day that don't have to wait for trains anymore is a nice bonus.

Perhaps more importantly, the new overcrossing makes Portland a more attractive distribution point for goods. In addition, 9,000 workers just got a shorter commute.

New Watershed Management Plan Open to Comments

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) has created a draft Watershed Management Plan. As urban density increases, runoff increases. Sometimes this leads to problems, such as occasionally flooded basements. Often it leads to difficulties in obtaining permits.

The CCA Water Committee recently held a meeting with a presentation on the draft plan by Mike Rosen and Susan Barthel of BES.

The Watershed Management Plan is an attempt to minimize the problems. At this stage, it is not a new set of regulations; it is information that will affect other City programs, including planning, transportation and development.

Bureau of Environmental Services will take the plan to the Portland City Council in January and would like to hear your comments. The Plan can be found at <http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=40156>. Comments can be sent to beswatershed@BES.ci.portland.or.us by November 30th.

CCA will be commenting on the Plan. If you would like to contribute ideas, contact Corky Collier at 503.287.8686 or corky@columbiacorridor.org.

Stormwater Discount Plan Moving Forward

The \$1 billion Big Pipe is under construction and already there is talk about needing more wastewater capacity in as little as 20 years. Amidst the dizzying details of water, stormwater and sanitary wastewater comes a new version of an old idea: discounts for those who remove themselves from the stormwater system. Comments are being taken in November. It's uncertain when the City Council will vote on the new discount plan.

Most Columbia Corridor landowners are within drainage districts, which are not directly affected by the discount program. The drainage districts already have an Intergovernmental Agreement that covers, and minimizes, City of Portland stormwater costs. (To learn more about the Corridor drainage districts, sign up for our [January 25 Breakfast Forum](#).)

For residents and businesses that can take advantage of the discount, rates will drop about 8% in the first year, before rising again. For those unable to disconnect stormwater, rates will rise about 40% in the first year. A business with 10,000 square feet of impervious surface will see their bill rise from \$70 to \$90.

If you would like more information, call the CCA office at 503.241.1888 or visit [Sam Adams' website](#).

Portland Freight Master Plan Delivered to Planning Commission

The Planning Commission reviewed the Freight Master Plan at their October 25 meeting and again at a November 8 work session. Commissioners, staff and the public made a number of suggestions, but the overall plan appears to be popular. Next stop will be the Portland City Council in December or January.

The plan describes the state of freight traffic in Portland and gives direction for City planners. It creates a set of policies and objectives specific to freight traffic.

The Freight Master Plan was developed in partnership with about 30 private sector men and women who have expertise in freight mobility. CCA was an active participant in developing the plan and believes this should be considered a template for how public policy is developed in the future.

If you would like to see the result of two years of dedicated work on freight transportation, go online to the [Freight Master Plan](#). If you have any questions, contact Corky Collier at 503.287.8686 or corky@columbiacorridor.org.

Well Field Businesses to File Annual Reports

CCA works closely with the Portland Water Bureau to administer the Portland [Well Field Protection Program](#). The goal of the program is to minimize the chance of hazardous chemicals contaminating one of the wells that function as Portland's backup drinking water supply. Working with the City, CCA has helped create an effective program that is relatively simple and inexpensive for businesses.

Businesses in the Well Field that handle at least 10 gallons of hazardous chemicals are required to file a simple report with the Water Bureau each November. If you think your business should file a report, contact Corky Collier at 503.287.8686 or corky@columbiacorridor.org for more information.

CCA is very proud of the program we have built with the Water Bureau. Working together, we have protected our water supply without saddling businesses with onerous and expensive requirements.

Sam Adams Creates a Liaison Program

Commissioner Sam Adams recently created a liaison program for a few Business District Associations. The Columbia Corridor Association has two new liaisons: Susan Barthel with the Bureau of Environmental Services and Rob Barnard with the Portland Department of Transportation. The program is in the experimental stage, with more liaisons expected to be formed in early 2006.

If you have concerns with any government issues, don't hesitate to call Corky at 503.287.8686. He will contact our liaisons and get a prompt reply. The new program appears to be successful for many business associations. However, CCA's contacts at the cities, county and Metro have been well developed for many years.

In order to evaluate this new program, we ask you fill out [the survey](#) and return to [CCA](#) or [Sam Adams' office](#).

PortlandMaps.com Highlighted in New York Times

There might be disagreement on whether it's the best use of City funds, but there's little disagreement on whether PortlandMaps.com is a good website. On November 5th, the [New York Times said](#), "the city [Portland] government built what has to be the best government-run real estate site. If you've never visited the website, take our suggestion and spend a few minutes browsing it. You might want to get a satellite image map of your property or find out where your sewer line connects to the City's line. You'll be surprised at how much information is available.

Upcoming Events

December 9th: CCA Annual Meeting

January 25th: Breakfast Forum on Columbia Corridor Levy System

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR
A S S O C I A T I O N

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