

News in the Corridor

February 2008

This email contains a mix of short news-bits and introductions for longer articles. Having trouble viewing this email? [Try our website.](#)

March Breakfast Forum

State Senators and Representatives from the Columbia Corridor Panel Discussion of the 2008 Legislative Session

We'll have a panel of State Senators and Representatives whose districts are in the Columbia Corridor. The discussion will focus on the successes and failures of the special 2008 Legislative Session. We'll also be looking toward the 2009 Session and we might take a peek at the 2008 election. [More information and registration...](#)

**Wednesday, March 26th
7:30 am – 9:00 am**

Airport Way and I-205 Interchange Improvements Being Identified

The Oregon Department of Transportation and the Port of Portland are beginning a study of potential improvements to the Airport Way/I-205 interchange that will reduce congestion on Airport Way while preserving options for future improvements on I-205.

You are invited to an Open House for the Airport Way Interchange Project on **Wednesday, March 5, 2008, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel** (8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR).

East Columbia to Lombard Connector Officially Open

After considerable effort on the part of businesses in the Columbia Corridor, the East Columbia to Lombard Connector, also known as the East End Connector is completed and running smoothly. The project, which relieves one of the worst congestions points in the metro area, might not have been completed if not for a 2001 campaign organized by CCA. [More...](#)

More Funds for Channel Deepening

President Bush released his budget request for federal fiscal year 2009, which included \$36 million for the Columbia River channel deepening project. The Corps of Engineers estimates this amount will be enough to complete the project except for one mile of rock removal in the navigation channel near St. Helens. If

Congress appropriates the \$36 million requested by the President, the Corps of Engineers should be able to substantially complete the project by 2010.

December Economic Index

The University of Oregon Index of Economic Indicators™ rose 0.2 percent in December, with the majority of index components improving during the month. Despite the December gains, the behavior of the index in recent months remains consistent with a substantial risk of recession in the near future. [Full pdf report...](#)

Welcome New and Renewing Members!

Oregon Humane Society
Owens Brockway
PacTrust
Parametrix
Parkrose School District
PGE
Portland Habilitation Center, Inc.
The PPI Group
Riverside Golf

PDC Working on New Enterprise Zone

The Portland Enterprise Zone designation in the Columbia Corridor expired last June. Since then the Portland Development Commission has been working on an improved version to be approved by City Council next month.

Since 2000, thirty-seven companies have applied for and received tax abatements through the Enterprise Zone program and have had significant economic and workforce impacts. A minimum of 3,183 employees have been retained and 1,138 jobs have been created within the zone. Designation of the North/Northeast Portland Enterprise Zone for another 10 years would provide Portland with a strong economic development tool to encourage existing and new companies to invest in Portland's North/Northeast industrial areas. The primary beneficiaries of Enterprise Zone benefits are manufacturing and other more industrially-oriented facilities serving other businesses.

Airport Futures Update

The *Airport Futures* is a collaborative effort between the City of Portland, Port of Portland, and the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan community to create an integrated long-range development plan for the Portland International Airport (PDX). They are currently in Phase 2 of the planning process titled "Aviation Demand Forecasting" analyzing the expected future passenger and cargo travel demand at PDX. [More...](#)

Upcoming Events

March 15: Slough 101 Workshop

March 26: Breakfast Forum with Columbia Corridor State Senators and
Representatives

April 30: CCA's Annual Trends & Forecasts

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

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