



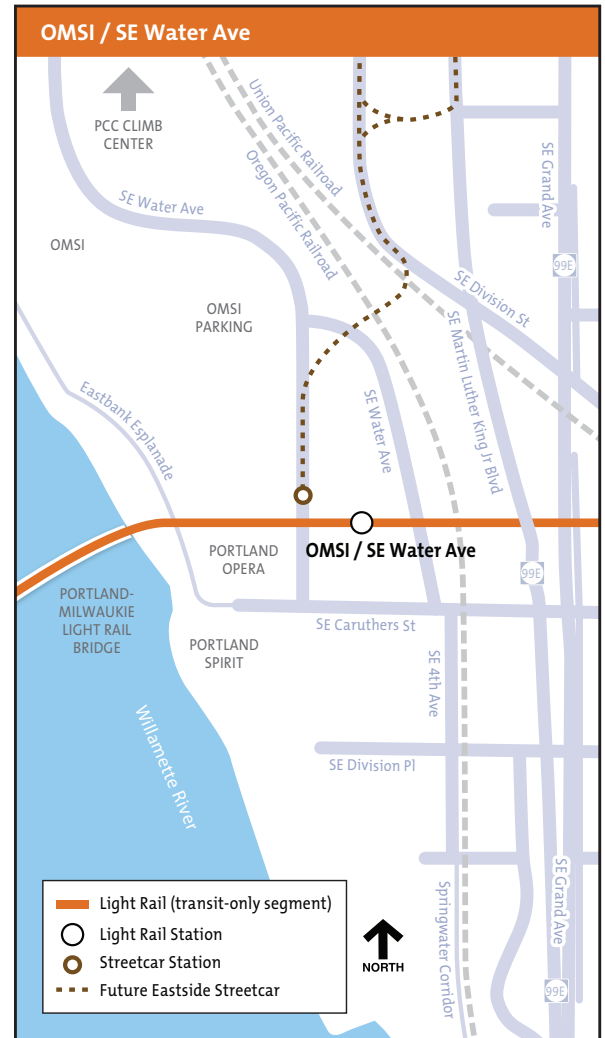
OMSI/SE Water Ave station area

Providing multi-modal access to a cornerstone of innovation

Design summary

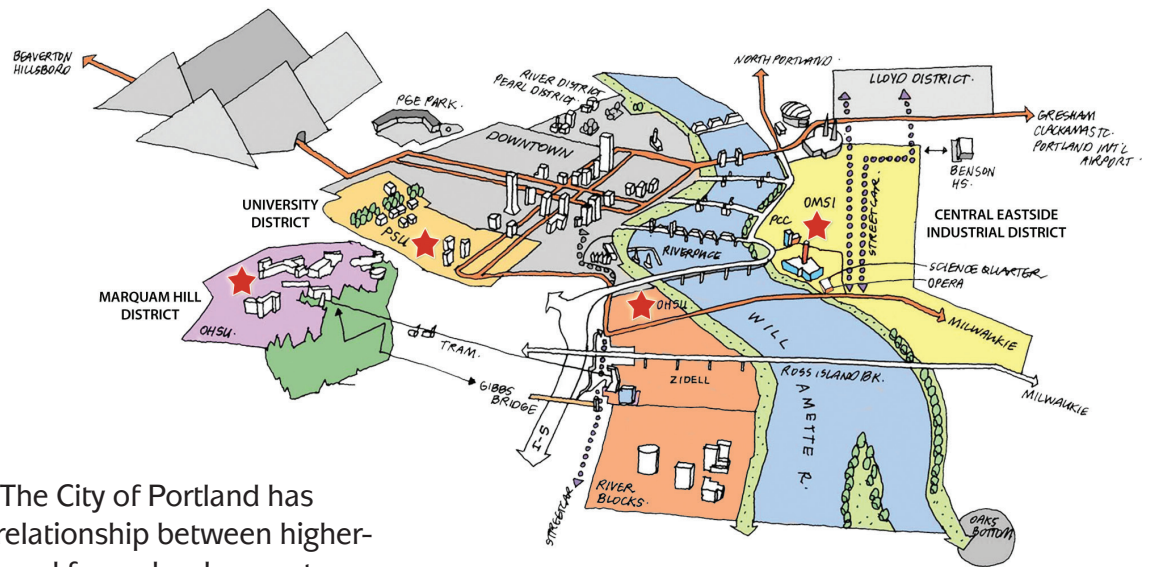
The OMSI/SE Water Ave Station is located in the Central Eastside Industrial District, which is largely characterized by warehouse, distribution and manufacturing uses. But the area immediately surrounding the station is occupied by dynamic institutions with exciting plans for the future. The Oregon Museum of Science & Industry (OMSI), Portland Opera and the Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation have redevelopment plans that will transform this underutilized waterfront district into a vibrant regional destination. The station platform will be located approximately one block north of SE Caruthers Street between the “new” and the “old” Water Avenues, where it is surrounded by these development opportunities.

Currently not directly served by transit, OMSI attracts more than 900,000 people each year—mostly children eager to explore the wonders of the universe—and the Portland Community College (PCC) CLIMB Center just north of OMSI draws more than 10,000 students each year. The river defines the west boundary of the area, and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and Oregon Pacific Railroad (OPRR) run along the northeast edge. The station area will be a portal to the new light rail bridge, which will reach across the Willamette River to other employment, education and research centers in downtown Portland and South Waterfront.



Expanding transit options is essential to the livability and economic vitality of our growing region, which is expected to add one million new residents and nearly 100,000 new jobs within the project corridor by 2030. The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project is integral to the region's strategy to manage growth and build more livable communities. This project is about more than bringing high-capacity transit to under-served communities—it is also about helping communities envision and achieve their aspirations. Combining infrastructure improvements, quality design features and new transit-oriented development along the alignment will connect neighborhoods, encourage walking and cycling, and create engaging public spaces where people want to be.

The Innovation Quadrant is made up of higher-education institutions, workforce development providers and private sector partners in the Central City.



Innovation Quadrant: The City of Portland has identified a functional relationship between higher-education institutions, workforce development providers and private sector partners located in the Central City, with the intention to enhance connections and collaborations. The Central Eastside Industrial District, anchored by OMSI and PCC, marks one of the four cornerstones of the “Innovation Quadrant.” Across the river Portland State University’s (PSU) University District, Oregon Health & Science University’s (OHSU) Marquam Hill Campus and OHSU’s Schnitzer Campus in the South Waterfront form the other three cornerstones. PSU, OHSU and PCC are the three largest higher education providers and employers in the region, and their current and potential collaborations with one another and with the private sector are the economic engine that drives the Innovation Quadrant. Together, the four districts of the quadrant are projected to grow by approximately 30,000 jobs and 11,000 households during the next 25 years. This light rail project presents opportunities to strengthen connections into and within the Quadrant with a transit hub that provides bus, streetcar, light rail and bicycle access.

Portland Streetcar: The Portland Streetcar Loop Project will bring streetcar service to the area in fall 2012. A 3.3-mile extension of the existing system will provide service from NW Portland, across the existing Broadway Bridge, into the Lloyd District and down to OMSI. The new light rail bridge

will set the stage to would allow the streetcar to “close the loop” by connecting this extension to the streetcar station on SW Moody Avenue. On the eastside, the future streetcars will access the bridge near the west end of the station platform and will have a separate station on the “old” Water Avenue.

Highlights of distinguishing design elements

The overall light rail project is designed to be responsive to the character and aspirations of surrounding neighborhoods, while maintaining a system-wide identity that creates a user-friendly transit experience. The light rail line will be dynamic in the way the station areas showcase the character of each neighborhood using distinctive landscaping, public art, sustainability initiatives and other elements. The OMSI station and related enhancements honor the area’s industrial history while also embracing aspirations to transition to a vibrant civic, education and employment district. A few highlights of distinguishing design elements for the OMSI/SE Water Ave Station include:

- **Multi-modal design:** The lively, multi-modal design of this station will be a distinguishing feature in and of itself. The station will have a separate throughway for bicycles, pedestrians, buses, light rail and future streetcar. There will



The area from the Willamette River to Clinton Station is an intersection for significant bike infrastructure, including the Clinton Street bicycle boulevard, Springwater Corridor and Eastbank Esplanade.

be separate platforms for east- and westbound transit; light rail trains will run on the outside and buses will run in the middle and share platforms with the trains. Cycletracks and 12-foot wide sidewalks on each side facilitate bike and pedestrian traffic flow.

- **Furnishings and railings:** The station will share design elements with the South Waterfront/SW Moody Ave Station across the river and the new bridge to create continuity and acknowledge the relationship between the institutions that anchor both districts. The bridge’s sleek metal and cable handrails will extend down the ramps and to “old” Water Avenue. The custom designed shelters, as well as the benches, lighting, trash receptacles and windscreens will be the same at both station platforms. Further, a transparent cable railing that runs between the cycle track and the bus lane will match the railing in South Waterfront. These two stations will share a unique custom glass-roofed shelter design, while furnishings such as benches and trashcans will be consistent at these stations and others on the alignment.
- **Public art:** Local filmmaker and media artist Jim Blashfield has proposed two narrow steel enclosures with video screens to be located under the shelters at each of the light rail platforms on either side of the bridge. Slow

moving images allude to local history, the river, and nearby cultural institutions and businesses in a poetic, non-narrative form. Underneath the bridge deck, artists Anna Valentina Murch and Doug Hollis designed the abutment walls with a central “sonic dish” curved to amplify sound at a single focal point. Soft-colored lights will move across the wall, echoing the rhythms of the nearby river.

- **Landscaping:** Street trees will be added to “new” Water Avenue, a portion of the greenway and the station block. Gingko trees will be a distinctive feature at the station and provide striking gold color during the fall season. Landscaped stormwater features will also be added along the sidewalks of the platform block and the “new” Water Avenue.
- **Lighting Concept:** Distinctive and whimsical lighting features will highlight the station and celebrate the creative energy of the district.

Trail connections: The Eastbank Esplanade, which extends from the Steel Bridge to Caruthers Street, offer riverfront recreational opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians. A temporary asphalt multi-use path from the station along the north side of the bridge will provide direct access to the Esplanade. This trail connection will be improved and finished as part of the future OMSI



OMSI is completing a master plan for its 22.5-acre property. Light rail and streetcar access will be integral to the development of its future campus.

redevelopment. New bicycle facilities planned for Caruthers Street, which will provide improved connections to the Springwater Corridor and a single, realigned, signalized crossing at SE 8th Avenue that will provide access to southeast Portland neighborhoods north of Division Street.

Circulation and truck access: “New” Water Avenue will accommodate vehicular and freight traffic as well as pedestrians and cyclists. Sidewalks and street trees will be installed on the east side of the street and the west side will have a temporary asphalt path and street lighting that will be improved when OMSI redevelops its property. Preserving the industrial vitality of this station area is important, and truck access is fundamental to this objective. The light rail project will continue to support industrial uses in the area and accommodate truck circulation.

Development opportunities

Integrating the project design with adjacent development plans will be pivotal to the success of both in this station area. The light rail project will set the stage for the development of surrounding properties and the Willamette River Greenway, a portion of which will be rebuilt by the project. Portland Opera is planning to develop its property

between the “new” and “old” Water avenues with mixed-use and office space, and to redevelop the site of its existing facility with a new performance hall.

The Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation will develop an engine house and interpretive center on a triangular site bounded by UPRR, OPRR and the future light rail trackway. Construction of the engine house is scheduled to begin in fall 2011, while the interpretive center is planned for the future. When fully built, the center will be a living workroom to celebrate the history of rail.

OMSI has completed the first phase of a Master Plan for its 22.5-acre property. The plan envisions expanding the museum’s science and educational programs and adding up to one million square feet of complementary development that could include educational uses, laboratory space, research and development, and other uses. The transit project combined with OMSI and its future campus developments will advance the Innovation Quadrant’s vision for a vibrant science and technology corridor that spans the Willamette River.

Stay involved

Sign up for project email updates and meeting notices at trimet.org/pm. For more information, call TriMet Community Affairs at 503-962-2150.

Available in other formats:
trimet.org
 503-238-7433
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Para esta información en español, favor llamar al 503-238-7433.

Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project is a partnership among:

