

Date: April 21, 2009
To: Project Task Leaders
From: Amy Fandrich
Subject: Recommendation – Bybee Bus Stop Location

The Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) includes a light rail station at Bybee Blvd. and a new set of bus stop pullouts on the east side of the station/structure. The construction of the pullouts creates an environmental 4(f) impact to the project. In light of this, TriMet staff and jurisdictional partners, including City of Portland (COP) Fire and Transportation Bureaus and Metro, developed alternatives for the bus stop locations that would eliminate this impact, retain bus stop connectivity, and not create additional traffic impacts.

Station Access and Connectivity

The Bybee light rail station is served by the No. 19 bus line. Existing stops are located at SE 23rd and SE 27th Avenues. Bybee Blvd. is configured with one lane of travel in each direction with bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides. There is an existing fire station located near the SE 23rd Ave. bus stop. The LPA option moves the bus stops located at SE 27th Ave. closer to the platform with the creation of the bus pullouts and includes stairs and elevators on each side of the Bybee structure for access to the station.

Alternatives

Five alternatives were identified and are further described in the attached Alternatives Matrix. During the review, staff found that existing in-street bus stops work with existing Bybee traffic and that the expected volume of bus transfers at the Bybee Station would not require bus pullouts. Additionally, bus stops closer to the station at the top of the structure was desirable. However, the COP Fire Bureau noted concerns with sight distance over the structure if a bus was stopped during a response in the eastbound (EB) direction (the westbound (WB) direction was not of concern). To mitigate this, a bus pull out on top of the structure in the EB direction was reviewed. However, this option would be difficult and costly to construct due to need for building over an existing freight rail line and could also have environmental impacts. Therefore, in order to eliminate the environmental 4(f) impact, the best option is to retain the existing stops and add a new stop on top of the structure in the WB direction.

Recommendation

Staff recommends proceeding with elimination of the bus stop pullouts and adding a new bus stop in the WB direction on top of the structure, over the light rail station. This will eliminate the environment 4(f) impact and is estimated to save the project approximately \$460k.

Notes

The above recommendation assumes that both stair and elevator connections to the light rail platform, will be retained on the north and south sides of the Bybee structure. Should future value engineering opportunities include eliminating either of these, further analysis and review by TriMet and the jurisdictional partners will be necessary, specifically, a gap analysis study will be needed. As the design is further developed around this station, Project staff will continue to engage appropriate jurisdictional partners.