

On behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee and the Oregon Section, I invite you to attend the 2007 District 6 Annual Meeting in Portland at the Hilton to be held from July 15-18, 2007! Our slogan, "Prepare. Evaluate. Innovate. Sustain", represents our focus on planning, operations, design, and livability. Portland has long been known as a leader in transportation, whether you think of our reputation as the Best Cycling City in America, as an innovator with light rail, streetcar, and now an aerial tramway, or as the place where the land use transportation connection is more than a concept. We hope that you decide to join us at the 2007 District 6 Annual Meeting! The conference hotel is located in downtown Portland and we're looking forward to an exciting meeting, where you will enjoy more modes than your average conference. One of the highlights of the meeting will be a Sunday night Get Acquainted Social that will feature Congressman Earl Blumenauer, who many of you know from his leadership in livability and bicycle issues at the national level. Prior to a career in the US Senate, Congressman Blumenauer was a Commissioner for the City of Portland and head of the Office of Transportation.

The Oregon Section is offering the PTOE exam on Saturday before the conference. If you are interested visit the www.tpcb.org website for registration information.

On Sunday, we'll have a golf tournament that will be a great opportunity to connect with old friends and win fabulous prizes. Also on Sunday we're hosting a Technical Guest Tour which is a visit to the Historic Columbia River Gorge Highway. This guided tour will include a stop at postcard perfect Multnomah Falls, the country's second highest year round falls (620 feet). It is a Technical Tour that guests are sure to be interested in because of the scenery and beauty that has earned the distinction as a National Scenic Area by the Forest Service.

On Monday night we're headed to the Oregon Zoo for the Family Night dinner. This evening is sure to have something for everyone. Transportation to the Zoo will be via Portland's light rail system, through which we'll travel into the deepest light rail station in the country. The Oregon Zoo is famous for its wonderful exhibits and entertainment will include the Birds of Prey demonstration that includes several exciting displays for everyone to enjoy. There's even a "Zoo Railway" for budding young transportation enthusiasts to enjoy!

The LAC is working on a high-quality technical program that will include District 6's largest technical program ever at five tracks. There were also be two poster sessions that make the offering of over 140 presentations larger than the national meeting. Highlights from a brief review of the abstracts accepted for the meeting include a summary of the soon to be published Highway Safety Manual ,and a presentation regarding the implementation of transit signal priority in support of bus rapid transit projects, (the City of Portland has implemented TSP at over 250 traffic signals, and City engineers will be on hand to share their experiences with implementation). The Portland Meeting will also feature five technical tours. Technical Tours on Monday consist of a visit to the Portland Aerial Tram, the Portland State University ITS Lab, the Bus and Light Rail Transit Mall Construction, Green Streets Tour, and a Bicycle Tour.

Please visit our website at <http://www.oregonite.org/2007D6/index.php> for more details about the 2007 Annual Meeting. Information for vendors and registration for individuals is available on-line, as well as information and on-line booking for family activity, travel, and hotel accommodations. We encourage everyone to make their reservations early since Portland is a very popular destination during the summer months. We look forward to see you in July!

Portland Meeting Highlights

Technical tracks

The Technical program will consist of over 140 individual presentations contained within four technical tracks. The technical tracks will include Traffic Engineering Operations and ITS, Planning, Peds/Bikes/Transit, Design and Safety, and Learning Sessions featuring Vendors and Non-Engineering Sessions.

Technical Tours

There are a lot of exciting things to see in Portland from a technical perspective. Portland continues to be on the cutting edge regarding transportation and there's a long history of support for light rail and streetcar service.

- **The Portland Aerial Tram** is a 3,300 linear foot bi-cable aerial tram rising 500 feet over Interstate 5, the Lair Hill neighborhood and Terwilliger Parkway. Opened in January 2007, the Tram is an exciting new addition to Portland's skyline, while also being a practical, efficient and "green" transportation link between neighborhoods, the OHSU Marquam Hill campus, and the South Waterfront District.
- **The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Lab at Portland State University** is one of the most advanced traffic labs in District 6. The lab has 3 state-of-the-art rooms and includes student workstations, a real-time fiber optics feed from 80 regional traffic cameras, video display wall, a regional archived data user service, and a traffic signal lab. The tour will highlight current research activities, demonstrate the PORTAL data archive, and the traffic signal lab, where transit signal priority research has been conducted.
- When the **Portland Bus Mall** opened in 1978, it was heralded as one of the most successful examples of combining urban design, transportation, and redevelopment. The tour will highlight the ongoing construction that will establish a balanced design that accommodates automobiles, trucks, buses, light rail vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians.
- **Green Streets** are where the concepts of sustainability meet reality. This technical tour will exhibit some examples in the Portland Metro region that has led to our community's leadership in the emerging technology of Green Street designs. Green Street sites included on this tour will include swale and planter retrofits, porous pavements, and a large-scale new development with multiple Green Street elements. Discussion regarding stormwater management function, traffic calming, pedestrian interaction, and maintenance will be generated.
- **The Portland Bicycle Tour** highlights some of the innovative bicycle facility designs that make Portland one of the top cities for cycling in North America. The approximately 11 mile tour will start and end on the Willamette River near downtown, and will focus on bicycle facilities in Portland's historic Eastside "streetcar suburbs." The tour will highlight the design of "Bicycle Boulevards": low-volume bike routes that are increasingly popular among Portland's cyclists. Other aspects of the tour will include pavement markings, wayfinding, bridge treatments and signalization.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Portland Meeting

Q: Do I need to rent a car for the meeting?

A: Definitely not. TriMet (Portland's regional transit agency) provides light rail service to the airport, directly to the airport terminal. The light rail service operates from 5 a.m. to shortly after midnight and operates every 15 minutes throughout the day. Taking light rail will be faster than driving during the peak times and only costs \$1.70 for a one-way ticket and drops you off a block from the hotel.

Most of the activities will provide transportation or will use transit, so consider this an opportunity to expand your use of the transportation options that Portland is well known for. If you're technically savvy you can use Google Transit or TriMet's Trip Planner for more detailed itineraries.

Having grown up in Portland using transit, I personally feel strongly that TriMet is one of the reasons that makes our City so livable and encourage all visitors to use it.

Q: I have heard it rains a lot in Portland, what can I expect for weather while I am there?

The summer months are usually dry, but we can't deny that Portland is known for its rain showers. We're typically very pleasant during the summer (in the mid eighties), but can sometimes reach 100 degrees. Temperatures should be comfortable, but this is Portland.

Q: Can I rent a bicycle during the day?

The Tuesday bike tour will offer an opportunity to see the City by bike, but there are other opportunities for renting a bicycle in downtown. Many of the City bike shops provide access as does Waterfront Bicycles, which is a short walk from the hotel.

Q: What can kids do at the conference?

There are numerous activities for children and teenagers associated with the meeting. The Guest Tours would be a great start and we've tried to keep the prices low to encourage participation. The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry is a great location to visit with older children and it's just across the river over the Hawthorne Bridge (you can take a bus or walk to it). For younger children, the Portland Children's Museum is fantastic for those wanting a diversion that's indoors (accessible by light rail) On a personal note, I have taken my three year old on the Aerial Tram and she really enjoyed the ride, so that also could be a day's outing.

Q: Is Portland really the Microbrewery capital of the world?

Unofficially, Portland has more brewpubs per capita than anywhere in the world and there are several within easy walking distance of the hotel. Sunday night will feature a multimodal tour of several that are on or near the light rail and streetcar lines. The unofficial guided tours will include visits to Widmer Brothers, Bridgeport Brewing, and McMenamins Brothers Pubs. For those wanting to venture out beyond the rail alternatives, there are several more including: Roots Organic Brewing, Lucky Labrador, and the Old Lompoc.

Q: Are the candidates for International Vice President speaking during the meeting?

Yes, we're excited to have both candidates at our meeting and we're busy trying to arrange voting on-site during the meeting. Both candidates will be available for you to talk to and ask questions. This will be a unique chance to get to know the candidates first hand and vote at the same time.

Q: Will the hotel honor the conference rate outside of the meeting dates?

Portland is a popular summer time destination and hotel rooms will be going fast at the conference rate of \$138. For those who are coming early (particularly Saturday night) rooms are

in short supply so please make your reservations early. You may find that the conference rate of \$138 will not be available on Saturday night, so please call the Hilton Hotel and speak with Susan Hemberry at 503-499-4231 if you have any questions or needs. After June 15 the room block will be released and few rooms will be available so register now!

Q: What is Flexcar?

Flexcar is a carsharing company that started in Portland and offers members an opportunity to reserve a car and drive to a meeting. It is one of the tools that transportation agencies can use to support transportation options other than the private automobile.

We're working to get Flexcar as a sponsor of the meeting and they have cars that are available by the hour in the downtown area around the hotel.