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Business Symposium Will Address Regional Transportation Planning and Funding Options for Improving Freight Mobility and Commuter Access

BEAVERTON, OR—Regional transportation experts will come together at the Westside Transportation Symposium titled *“Driving the Westside Economy: An Efficient Transportation System,”* presented by Westside Economic Alliance’s Transportation Committee on Tuesday, June 13, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Kingstad Meeting Center, 15450 S.W. Millikan Way in Beaverton, OR 97006.

The half-day symposium will feature three panel discussions and a luncheon keynote address by Oregon Transportation Commission chair Stuart Foster. The symposium will offer an in-depth assessment of the Portland metropolitan transportation system and explore the link between efficient transportation networks and a healthy local economy.

Guest speakers will address the important role transportation plays in attracting and retaining freight-dependent businesses to the region, and plans for future enhancements on the Westside. The focus will be on exploring funding options, including the use of public-private partnerships, tolling, and the outlook for Oregon state transportation funding packages in the 2007 Legislative Session.

“The Westside is one of the fastest growing regions in Oregon,” explains Frank Angelo, chairman of the Alliance’s Transportation Committee, who will serve as moderator of the symposium. “Current funding sources and construction projects aren’t keeping pace with our growing population, rebounding economy, and the need to deliver freight and people in a safe, reliable and efficient manner.”

Joining Stuart Foster, other confirmed guest speakers will include Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder, chair of the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation; Mayor Rob Drake, City of Beaverton; Oregon state Senator Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro); Nicholas Hann, managing director, Macquarie North America Ltd.; Fred Hanson, executive director, TriMet; and Ann Gardner, government relations manager, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.

Admission for this event is \$50.00 for members of Westside Economic Alliance and \$75.00 for non-members and registrations received after Wednesday, June 7. A continental breakfast and lunch will be included. To register call Westside Economic Alliance at 503-968-3100 or e-mail westside@westside-alliance.org.

About Westside Economic Alliance

Westside Economic Alliance is a member-based, non-profit association that advocates for a healthy economic climate on the Westside of the Portland metropolitan region. Westside Economic Alliance plays a leading role in the development of this high growth region by providing a business perspective in public forums and facilitating the cooperation between the private and public sectors. The result is a unique partnership that benefits both the businesses and communities of the Westside. For more information, please visit www.westside-alliance.org.

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