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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Results of Statewide 'Cost of Congestion' Study to be Revealed at Westside Economic Alliance Forum

WHAT: On March 22, 2007, the findings of a statewide "Cost of Congestion" study will be revealed at Westside Economic Alliance's monthly Breakfast Forum entitled "*How Does Traffic Congestion Impact Oregon's Economy and Livability?*" The event will feature a panel of business leaders who will discuss how traffic congestion is impacting their employees, families, business productivity and personal safety.

WHY: In 2005, a ground breaking report revealed the "Cost of Congestion" to the Portland metropolitan region, warning that a continued failure to invest in transportation improvements would result in an annual loss of \$844 million and 6,500 jobs from the regional economy by 2025. That study also revealed that residents would lose up to \$782 per household and 50 hours of commuting time annually if significant improvements are not made soon.

Westside Economic Alliance recently joined a consortium of business interests and public agencies from across the state to further evaluate the essential role transportation plays in Oregon's growing economy, by commissioning a statewide expansion of the 2005 "Cost of Congestion" study.

WHO: **Steve Clark**, publisher, Community Newspapers and The Portland Tribune
Frank Angelo, principal, Angelo Planning Group
Maureen Wheeler, public communications officer, Beaverton School District
Dana White, regional director, Providence Health System
Jonathan Williams, government affairs manager, Intel Oregon

WHEN: Thursday, March 22, 2007, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: Kingstad Center
15450 S.W. Millikan Way, Beaverton, OR 97006

COST: The cost to attend this event is \$25.00 for members of Westside Economic Alliance, and \$35.00 for non-members. A \$10.00 charge will be added to all registrations received after Monday, March 19, 2007. A buffet breakfast will be provided.

RSVP: To register, e-mail westside@westside-alliance.org or call 503.968.3100.

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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