

UNION STATION RECEIVES STIMULUS FUNDING

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Portland's Union Station Receives Stimulus Money

(Portland, OR) The City of Portland has been awarded two grants totaling \$1,436,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) funds from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for rehabilitation work on the historic Union Station. The Portland Development Commission, which owns Union Station, will provide \$285,000 in local matching funds. The City's Bureau of Internal Business Services, Facilities Services, were the grant applicants and will manage the project funded by this award. The Union Station project was selected to receive this funding through ODOT's Transportation Enhancement Program. The funding is in addition to a \$1,200,000 grant previously awarded to Union Station from ODOT's Transportation Enhancement Program for work currently under way.

This new funding will help replace a portion of the roof on Union Station, the oldest major passenger terminal on the West Coast, which opened in 1896. Work includes replacement of stamped metal tiles, gutters, and downspouts, as well as seismic upgrades to portions of the building. Design of the improvements, with careful consideration of the historic character of the station, is under way. The project is anticipated to be out for construction bids early next year.

"We are very pleased to receive this grant funding," said Mayor Sam Adams. "This means the existing rehabilitation project can be expanded and the on-going construction work completed more efficiently. It also means we can bring an estimated 30 additional construction jobs to Portland's city center at a time when creating and sustaining living wage jobs is essential."

The funding provided by ODOT and PDC will help address the most immediate building issues. However, the overall rehabilitation needs of Union Station are extensive. The State of Oregon has applied for \$45.6 million in Federal Railroad Administration funds to address additional phases of improvements. Necessary improvements include additional roof repairs, seismic/structural upgrades, ADA improvements, new mechanical systems, electrical service, and fire detection and protection systems, as well as track improvements.

Union Station serves Amtrak passengers and is one of two designated multimodal hubs in the City of Portland, providing convenient connections between passenger rail, light rail, intra- and inter-city buses, streetcar lines, taxis, and various shuttle services. The station is also home to approximately twenty small office tenants and Wilf's Restaurant.

Contact:

Jim Coker

Phone Number: 503-823-5348