

Carlotta Collette

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS | March 2009

Carlotta Collette represents District 2, which includes the cities of Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn and a portion of Southwest Portland.



The “Buy Clackamas County Streetcar”

A personal message from Councilor Collette

When the next streetcar line opens in the Metro region it is likely to feature streetcars made right here in District 2 – at United Streetcar, a three-year-old subsidiary of Oregon Iron Works in Clackamas County. These cars will be the first American-made modern streetcars to go into service. They’ll be the first ones to meet “Buy America” standards set by the federal government. That means more than 60 percent of the components are U.S. products. In fact, the United Streetcar vehicles feature about 70 percent U.S. elements, and many of them are also local sourced.

Oregon Iron Works Vice President Chandra Brown is particularly proud of the company’s newest product line because, as she puts it, “It shows that even traditional, older manufacturing companies can compete and grow in a green economy. Green jobs aren’t just for new industries.”

Oregon Iron Works, founded in 1944, built an international reputation on its ability to design, prototype and manufacture just about anything made from metal. The long list of products for which the company is known includes steel bridge components, barges, specialized ships, and fish protection screens and gates for hydropower dams.

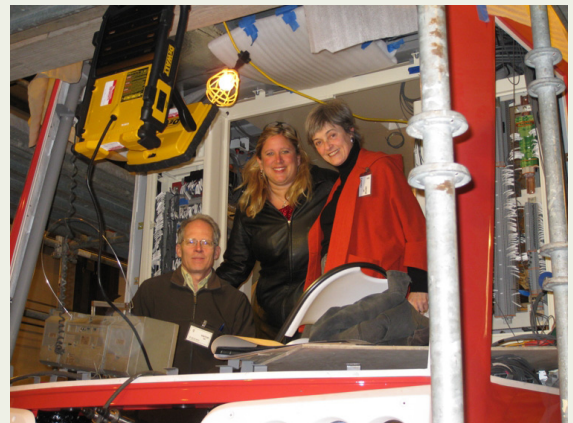
But it took the concerted efforts of Oregon’s congressional Representatives Peter DeFazio, Earl Blumenauer and Darlene Hooley to secure federal funding for the company to take on its newest role as the nation’s first streetcar producer.

As public transit becomes more critical in America’s plan to reduce its reliance on imported oil, streetcars are seen as a key urban transit mode. Until now, most streetcars have been made in Europe.

This first U.S.-made streetcar relies on the design and technology of Skoda streetcars manufactured in the Czech Republic. Skoda is a world leader in rail vehicle production. Oregon Iron Works successfully negotiated an exclusive technology transfer agreement with Skoda that allows the local company to produce the Czech-designed streetcars here. The Oregon manufacturer converted the Czech design to use U.S. components, but also to fit into the Portland Metro area.

The first Clackamas County made streetcar will be up and ready for on-street testing in a matter of months. You’ll be able to catch a ride on one in the very near future.

– Carlotta Collette



District 2 Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette (right) and Councilor Rex Burkholder (left) join Oregon Iron Works Vice President Chandra Brown (center) inside the first U.S. made streetcar.”



Metro

www.oregonmetro.gov

Metro's recycling hotline: over two million served

The Metro Recycling Information hotline reached a major milestone when it answered its two millionth call on Saturday, February 28th. The popular recycling and disposal information clearinghouse has been part of the regional government since 1981. Fielding such questions as "how can I recycle 300,000 defective shopping bags" and "what can I do with 2.5 tons of outdated astrology books," the hotline operates six days per week with a staff of six specialists who answer questions from residents and businesses about recycling, garbage disposal, household hazardous waste, natural gardening and reuse options for unwanted materials.

In this increasingly automated era, callers are frequently surprised to hear a person answer the phone. According to customer-service surveys, callers value the quick, helpful answers they get from talking with people at Metro's recycling information hotline.

The hotline has grown from an operation whose only resource was a map marked with recycling depots to a GIS database-driven service with hundreds of recycling, reuse and disposal referrals as well as several hundred topic files. In its first year of operation, the hotline answered just over 9000 calls. In 2008 more than 104,000 calls were answered.

Metro Recycling Information, at 503-234-3000, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Find a Recycler web page address is www.oregonmetro.gov/findrecycler.

Metro Council advances 15 priority areas for possible transit investments

The Metro Council voted Feb. 12 to approve further evaluation of 15 transportation corridors for future investments in light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit or rapid streetcar. The corridors are spread throughout the region and will be part of Metro's Regional High Capacity Transit System Plan. The Plan is a 30-year approach to prioritizing investments in new transportation corridors as well as changes to existing corridors, and is being developed as a component of the federally mandated Regional Transportation Plan.

The 15 areas were narrowed from a broad list of 55 proposed corridors, which Metro

developed with region-wide engagement from residents, businesses, community organizations and local elected leaders. The corridors selected for further evaluation best fit the criteria of expected ridership, cost, environmental constraints, social equity, transit connectivity, traffic congestion and regional 2040 Growth Concept land uses. Funding and specific modes have not yet been designated for any particular corridor.

The Council also adopted a set of criteria to prioritize the 15 selected corridors. These criteria are based on community, environment, economic and deliverability measures.

To learn more about the plan, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/goingplaces.

Metro employees make the plunge for Special Olympics

What reason would seemingly functional people put on silly costumes and jump into the Columbia River in February? It can only be one thing - the annual Polar Plunge! A special event co-sponsored by Metro, the Polar Bear Plunge is a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations and local businesses to support Special Olympics Oregon athletes by jumping, walking or slowly crawling into the icy Columbia River.

The plunge took place at Metro's M. James Gleason Boat Ramp and Broughton Beach. It was estimated that as many as a thousand participants took the plunge including Metro's own employee team, the "I C Rangers." Lead by Metro parks property stewardship director Mike Brown, the team hoped to raise \$1000 for the Special Olympics by dipping into the frigid waters. "I C Rangers" team members include Scott Paskill, Annie West, Mike Carpinella, Howard Rasmussen, Jim Caudell, Ryan Hixson, Resa Allen and Kendra Carrillo.

About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

Your Metro representatives

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David Bragdon

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Carlotta Collette, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
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