

Metro South Station Assessment Project Update

December 2013



Metro South Station is in an important chapter in its thirty-year history. Long a linchpin in the regional solid waste system, the facility's layout and constrained size limit its operational efficiency and capacity for growth. Since Metro South opened as a garbage transfer station in 1983, the region's waste management priorities—and the demands of customers for new services—have evolved to include recycling, material recovery, organics collection and household hazardous waste disposal. A number of prior studies identified specific shortcomings of the facility, especially limitations in material recovery ability. The current project is looking at what can be done with Metro South today to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of its customers in the years ahead.

This assessment, part of the Solid Waste Roadmap, includes two phases and is being led by HDR Engineering. Phase 1 (Dec. 2012 to Oct. 2013) involved widespread outreach and data collection from Metro South's customers and other stakeholders about the facility's services. It also included analysis of the materials coming through the facility now, as well as what is projected to in the future. Phase 1 provided a solid foundation that resulted in a list of prioritized needs for Metro South's continued operations.

Phase 2 (Nov. 2013 to Feb. 2014) considers these needs in a preliminary engineering exercise. It includes developing potential scenarios and conceptual layout designs to improve facility operations. Metro currently is reaching out to various stakeholders – public, private and non-profit – for input associated with these options. Metro Council will decide in March 2014 which option(s) to pursue further, with a preferred alternative to be selected later in the year.

What have we learned so far?

Highlights of the project's findings reveal that Metro South customers value:

- **Location:** Metro South's location in Oregon City off I-205 is convenient and serves the South Portland metro area well; there appears to be much interest in maintaining a waste collection and recycling facility here.
- **Service Variety:** The loyal customer base, especially the self-haul customers, values the one-stop-shop appeal of Metro South and the multiple services available on site.
- **Customer Service:** The operations personnel receive exceptionally high marks for customer service, with satisfaction rates approaching 90%.

Metro South can be improved through:

- **More, flexible space:** Adding more space for receiving organics, HHW and material recovery (top needs identified).
- **Improved traffic flow:** Providing more separation between commercial and self-haul traffic and more consistency in how various areas within Metro South are accessed and used.

Questions?

More information about the Metro South Station Assessment can be found at www.oregonmetro.gov/metrosouth or by contacting Chuck Geyer, Metro Principal Solid Waste Planner, at 503-797-1691 or chuck.geyer@oregonmetro.gov.