Incorporating Transit Priorities Into Street Design

NACTO
Designing Cities: Leading the Way to World Class Streets
October 25, 2012

Jeff Owen
Active Transportation Planner
owenj@trimet.org
503-962-5854
Agency Overview

- Portland metropolitan region
  - Service area of 570 square miles
  - Population of 1.5 million
  - 52 mile MAX light rail
  - 79 bus lines – 13 frequent service
  - 14.7 mile WES Commuter Rail

- Over 102 million trips in FY 2012
- Most riders (84%) are choice riders
Guiding Principles – Takeaway Items

• Do the right thing
• Work together because we are all part of the solution
• Make expectations of all users clear and convenient
Case Studies

1. Rose Quarter Transit Center

2. Downtown Transit Mall
Rose Quarter Transit Center

• **Overview:**
  • Hub of many bus routes
  • All MAX light rail line cross here
  • Sporting events and special events
Rose Quarter Transit Center

• **Overview:**
  • Desired north-south connection for those on bike
  • Goal: Provide a safe and reliable path for those on bike
  • Many plans created
  • Field test final plan
Rose Quarter Transit Center

• Overview:
  • Desired north-south connection for those on bike
  • Goal: Provide a safe and reliable path for those on bike
  • Many plans created
  • Field test final plan
Rose Quarter Transit Center

• Overview:
  • Transit operations were impacted
  • Some bus routes rerouted; went from 24 vehicles per hour to just 11 per hour
  • Prompted training for bus operators
Rose Quarter Transit Center: How has it performed?

• At 1 Year anniversary mark:
  • Had seen more than 60,000 cyclists
  • Primary movements were during morning and evening peak commute hours
  • Thermo plastic markings held up well
  • Green line opening meant more train movements through the area east and west
  • Those on bikes were paying attention to the signals and being observant
Case Studies

1. Rose Quarter Transit Center

2. Downtown Transit Mall
Portland Transit Mall

- **Overview:**
  - Transit spine for the region
  - Tallest buildings and highest density in the state of Oregon along this spine
  - Previous mall was two lanes of bus only
  - Auto traffic limited
  - Addition of MAX light rail
Many Alternatives

“Just Right”
Portland Transit Mall

• **Overview:**
  • “Just Right” concept
  • All bus stops and MAX stations located on the right-hand side of the street
  • Cars and bikes can travel the entire length of mall, but must mix in the single left-hand traffic lane (no right turns)
Guiding Principles – Takeaway Items

• Do the right thing
• Work together because we are all part of the solution
• Make expectations of all users clear and convenient
Incorporating Transit Priorities Into Street Design

NACTO
Designing Cities: Leading the Way to World Class Streets
October 25, 2012

Jeff Owen
Active Transportation Planner
owenj@trimet.org
503-962-5854