

FRI-C06

Catch the Orange Line!

Portland's Innovative Approach to Multimodal Transit Design

Friday, October 20, 2017: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Portland's new Orange Line Light Rail is vital to linking the region's livable communities. Presenters will examine the complex planning and design of this multimodal system. They will examine its catalytic consequences along with how leadership by landscape architects resulted in distinctive, artistic, human-scaled, sustainable infrastructure that's transforming urban neighborhoods.



PART I

Introduction & Project Overview

Brian McCarter describes the Portland region's approach to building community through light rail by connecting people, places, neighborhoods, and jobs, and how that approach was applied to the Orange Line.

PART II

Panelist Perspectives

Jean Senechal Biggs speaks about the important role of transit agency and local government partnerships in delivering the project and reflects on the role of landscape architects in the planning, design and construction of the project. Carol Mayer-Reed describes how landscape architects informed the decision-making process and built support for the project. Carol also reflects on urban design in a transit context and gives an overview of the project's ten stations composed of unique and unifying elements. Bob Hastings describes how TriMet made sustainability a project focus and incorporated eco-track, eco-roofs, solar cells, regenerative energy storage, and active transportation improvements along the alignment.

PART III

Project Significance & Conclusions from the TriMet Perspective

Bob Hastings describes the evolution of TriMet's light rail system from an urban design perspective and reflects on how to take Portland's experiences and apply them elsewhere.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Learn how principles of this multimodal transportation project can be applied to communities nationwide.
- ✓ Hear how the team applied unprecedented sustainability initiatives throughout the entire system design.
- ✓ Understand the significant contributions of landscape architects' design and placemaking in urban infrastructure.
- ✓ Appreciate how the team overcame many skeptics through an effective community engagement process.

PART IV

Moderated Discussion

Brian McCarter will lead a dialogue with the panelists prior to audience Q&A. Questions may include:

- How can public policy set expectations for multimodal access in public works projects and ensure budget is set aside for pedestrian and bicycle facilities?
- What graphic and narrative tools were most effective during the community engagement process to diffuse hostility and get constructive feedback?
- How can landscape architects position themselves for leadership roles in transit capital projects?



NOTES

ONLINE RESOURCES

TriMet

<https://trimet.org/>

Catch the Orange

<http://catchtheorange.com/>

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PRESENTERS



Brian McCarter, FASLA **ZGF Architects**

Brian McCarter, FASLA, is a Principal with ZGF Architects. He focuses on urban design, landscape architecture and planning for urban, mixed-use and transportation projects including projects in Portland, Denver, Los Angeles and Calgary. Brian's extensive experience with public agencies, advisory committees, engineering colleagues and stakeholders has enabled him to find exceptional solutions that meet aesthetic, urban design, operational and cost requirements. Under his leadership, the Portland Mall Revitalization garnered the highest national awards for urban design from ASLA and from AIA. Brian was the Urban Design Lead for the West Segment of the Orange Line.

e: brian.mccarter@zgf.com



Carol Mayer-Reed, FASLA **Mayer/Reed, Inc.**

Carol Mayer-Reed, FASLA, is a Principal with Mayer/Reed, Inc., a Portland, Oregon-based multi-disciplinary design firm. She has worked on sustainable, multimodal urban design and landscape architecture projects in the Pacific Northwest throughout her 40-year career. She finds that parks, campuses, public works and transportation infrastructure projects are catalytic in guiding future growth of the cities and communities we as landscape architects touch. She particularly enjoys complex, multi-disciplinary urban projects that require a collaborative approach. Carol was the Urban Design Lead for the East Segment of the Orange Line.

e: Carol@mayerreed.com



Bob Hastings, FAIA **TriMet**

Robert Hastings, FAIA, is the Agency Architect with TriMet, the mass transit agency in the Portland region. Bob oversees architecture, urban design and sustainability initiatives for light rail projects. He's responsible for coordinating architecture, station and urban design, signage and public art. His sustainability initiatives that include renewable energy opportunities for transit projects have won recognition from transportation agencies from across the nation. Bob also leads TriMet's research and knowledge-sharing activities with numerous academic institutions, as well as national and international delegations that include other transit agencies, policy makers, A&E firms and private developers.

e: hastingb@trimet.org



Jean Senechal Biggs, ASLA **DKS Associates**

Jean Senechal Biggs, ASLA, is a Senior Project Manager with DKS Associates, a transportation planning and engineering firm. Her career spans over 20 years of planning, designing, and building transit and transportation projects. Jean recently served as project manager at the Portland Bureau of Transportation and was Field Project Manager for the MAX Orange Line, collaborating with design and construction staff daily to ensure that the project met agency requirements and stakeholder expectations while successfully navigating agency decision-making processes. She is president of the Oregon Chapter of ASLA and is communications coordinator for ASLA's Transportation PPN.

e: jsb@dksassociates.com

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