



Oregon Passenger Rail

Eugene - Portland

CHOOSING A PATH FORWARD

Community Advisory Group Meeting

SE Metro Area

May 7, 2013



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Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and review agenda
2. Project Overview
 - ✓ Project Purpose, NEPA, study area
 - ✓ Screening process
 - ✓ What we have heard
3. Review Geographic Specific Alternatives
4. Explore local issues and concerns
5. Wrap up and next steps



Community Advisory Groups

Purpose:

- Identify location-specific issues to help *refine* alternatives (not compare)
- Involve local citizens, community members, businesses in process



Community Advisory Groups

- **6 Meetings**

- Portland

- SE Metro area

- SW Metro area

- Salem/Keizer

- Albany/Corvallis

- Eugene/Springfield

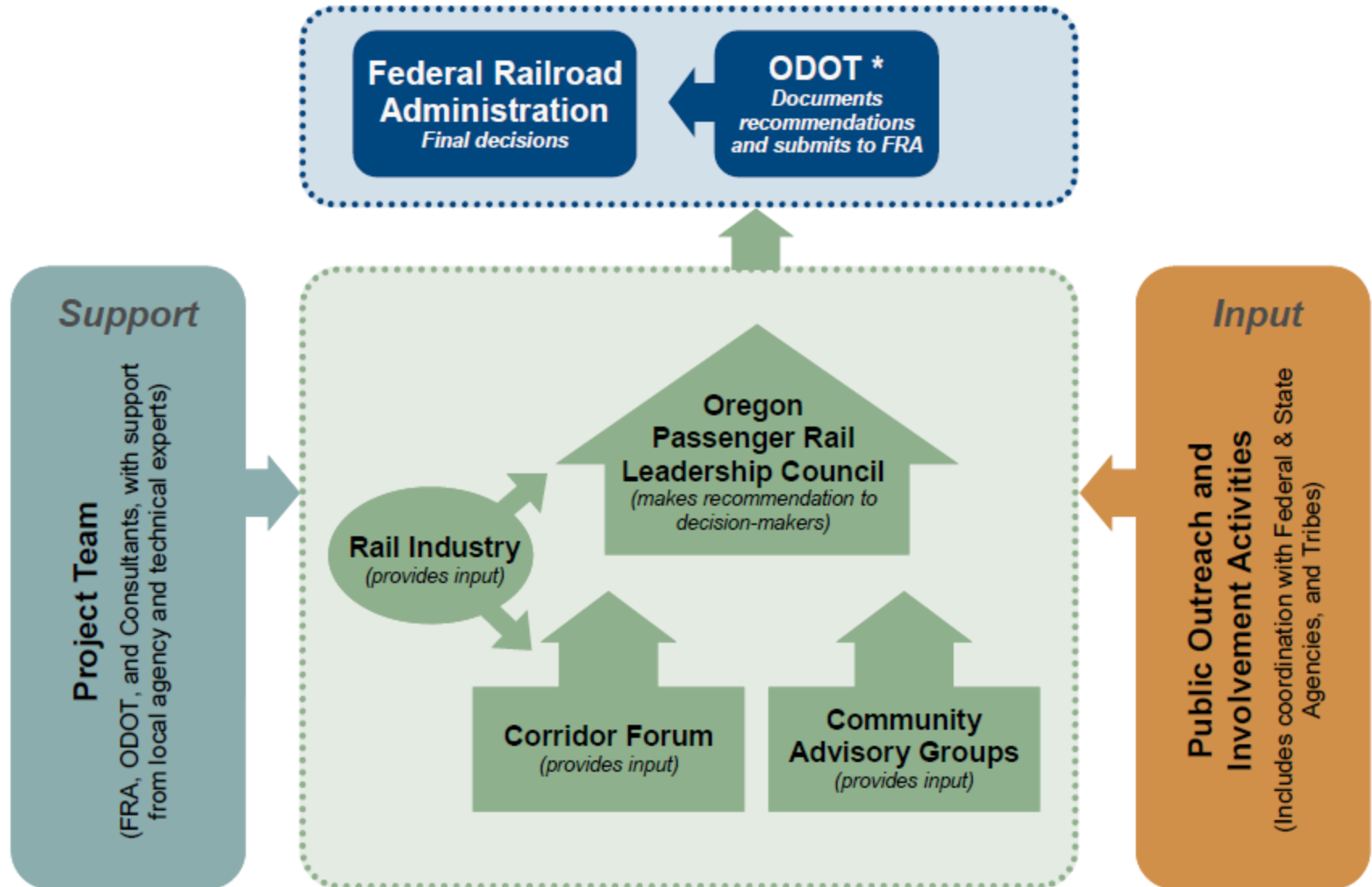
- **Plus, additional rural community meetings**



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Decision Making Process

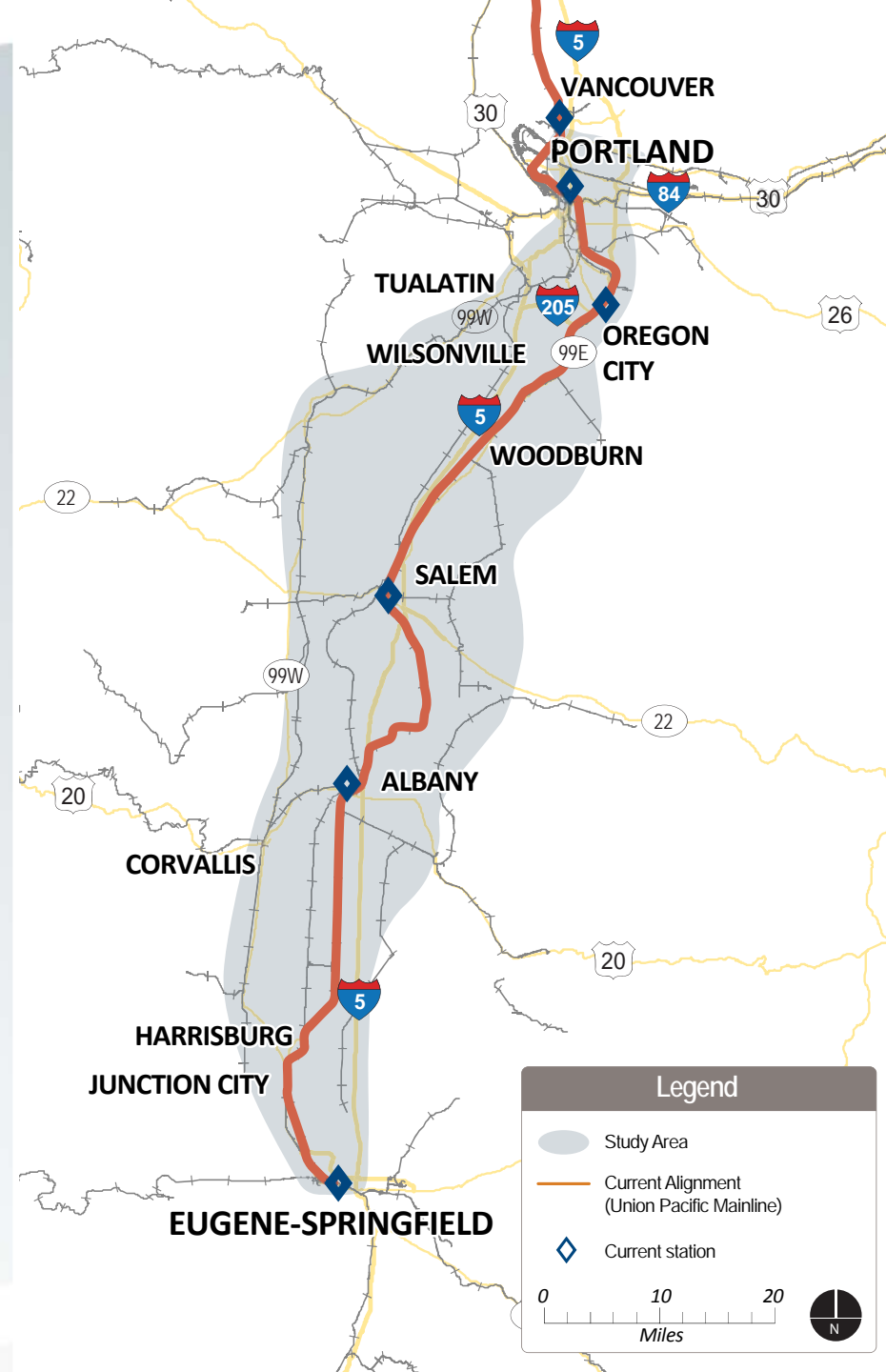


Project Overview

The project will study options to improve passenger rail service between Eugene-Springfield and Vancouver, WA.



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Oregon Passenger Rail & NEPA

OPR follows the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which ensures:

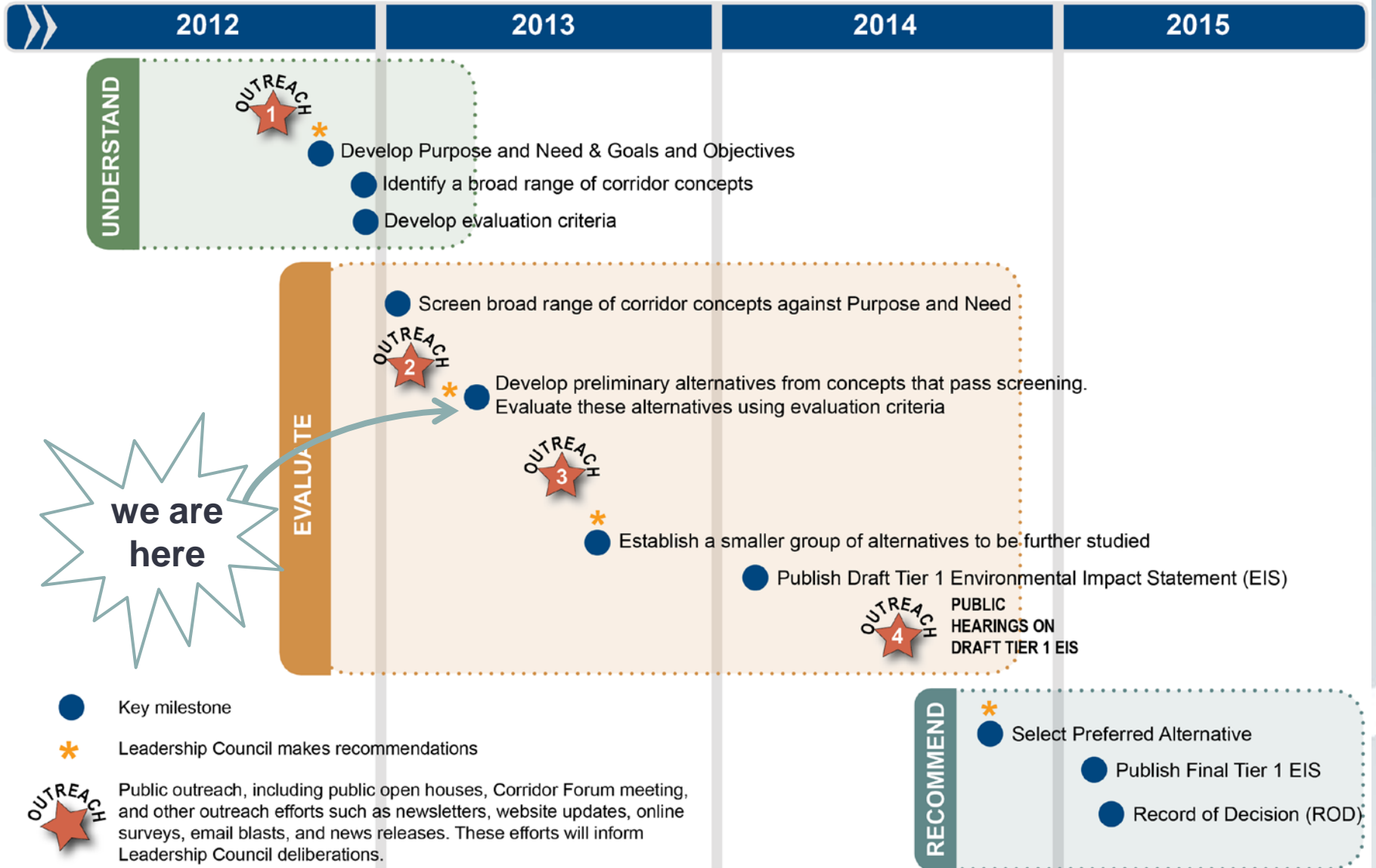
- Consideration of environmental impacts
- Reporting of negative and positive impacts of alternatives
- **The public (you!) will be involved to help us make informed decisions**



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Project Schedule



2012

2013

2014

2015

UNDERSTAND

OUTREACH 1 *

- Develop Purpose and Need & Goals and Objectives
- Identify a broad range of corridor concepts
- Develop evaluation criteria

EVALUATE

OUTREACH 2 *

OUTREACH 3 *

- Screen broad range of corridor concepts against Purpose and Need
- Develop preliminary alternatives from concepts that pass screening. Evaluate these alternatives using evaluation criteria
- Establish a smaller group of alternatives to be further studied
- Publish Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

OUTREACH 4 *

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON DRAFT TIER 1 EIS

RECOMMEND

- * ● Select Preferred Alternative
- Publish Final Tier 1 EIS
- Record of Decision (ROD)

we are here

- Key milestone
- * Leadership Council makes recommendations

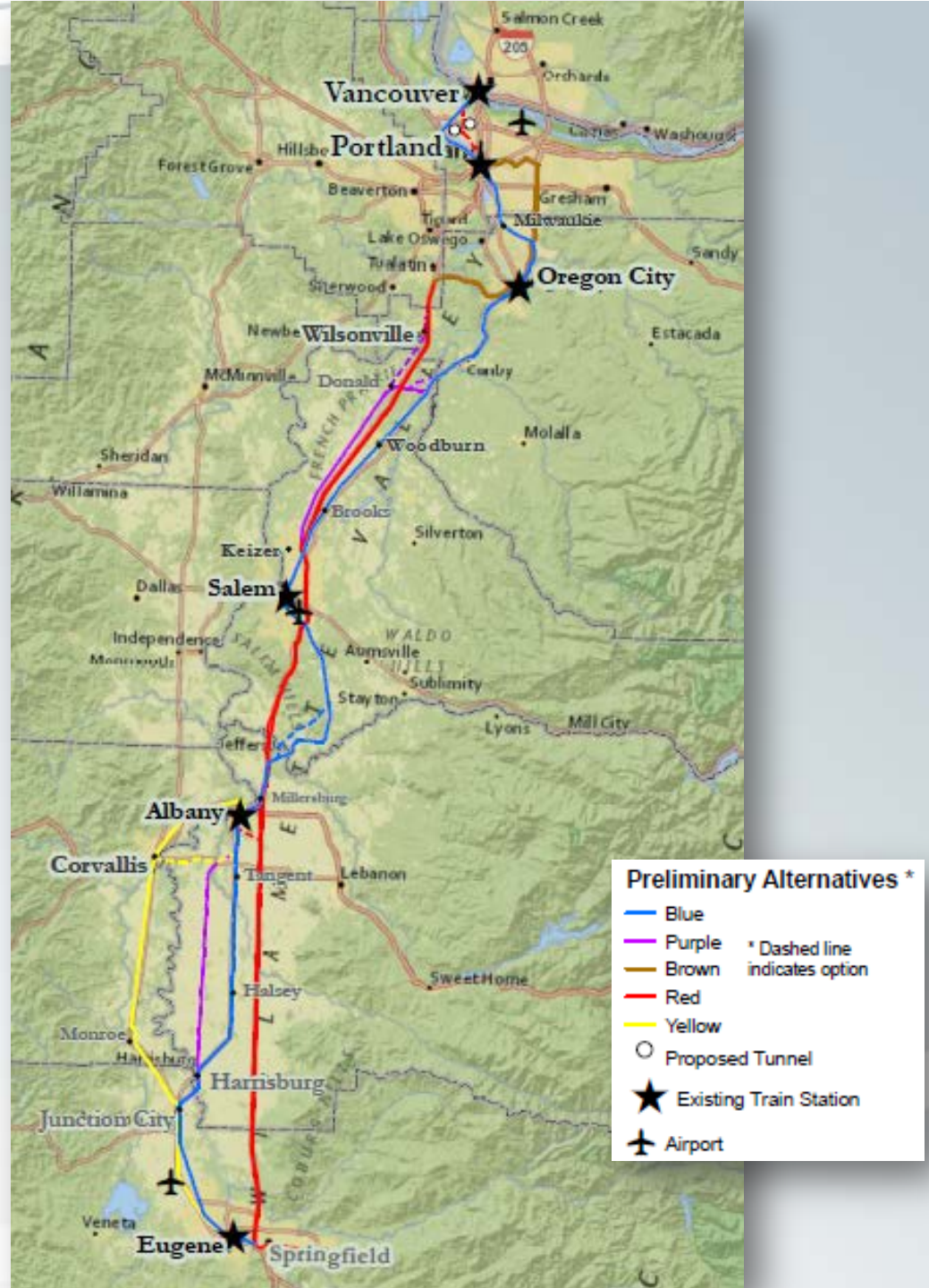
OUTREACH
Public outreach, including public open houses, Corridor Forum meeting, and other outreach efforts such as newsletters, website updates, online surveys, email blasts, and news releases. These efforts will inform Leadership Council deliberations.

Preliminary Alternatives– Selection

- Route options proposed by public at September 2012 open houses
- Screened against Purpose and Need in
- Corridor concepts approved by Leadership Council for further evaluation
- Now – further analysis to refine preliminary alternatives



Preliminary Alternatives



Oregon City: Key Themes

- Community supportive of a station
- Current station area is a “metro regional center”
- Plans for development – around existing station and at Blue Heron site
- City has made significant investment in downtown
- Existing transit access is weak



Oregon City: Key Themes

- **Additional Blue Alignment Issues**
 - Elevated tracks through Oregon City: under crossings have low vertical clearance, and raising the historic trestles is a concern
 - Floodplain
 - Few at-grade crossings



Oregon City: Key Themes

- **Brown Alignment Issues**

- The big hill through West Linn poses challenges for design
- TOD planned on other side of I-205 in the old Oregon City Shopping Center area



Milwaukie: Key Themes

- **Blue Alignment and Related Issues**
 - Redevelopment potential along blue alignment
 - UP will implement several new quiet zones in Milwaukie
 - People are not anxious to have more or faster trains without mitigation



Milwaukie: Key Themes

- **Blue Alignment and Related Issues**
 - Grade separation could create more enthusiasm for the project.
 - Getting a station would also be beneficial.



What's Next?

- Team will refine and evaluate alternatives based on CAG input
- Results of evaluation will be presented to the public, Corridor Forum and Leadership Council.
- **Public open houses in August/September 2013**
- **CAGs meet again in the Fall**



Learn More

The screenshot shows the Oregon Department of Transportation website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Oregon state seal, the text "OREGON.gov", a language selection dropdown, a search bar, and a "Find" button. Below this is a dark blue header with the "Oregon Department of Transportation" logo and name. The main content area features a large image of an Amtrak train at a station. To the left of the image is a sidebar with the "Oregon Passenger Rail Eugene - Portland" logo and a menu with links for "About the Project", "Public Involvement", "Resource Library", and "Contact". Below the main image is a section titled "Project Purpose and Background" with a link to "Learn more about what the Passenger Rail Project means for Oregon." Below this are three columns: "Events" listing a "Corridor Forum" and a "Leadership Council Meeting"; "Latest News" with a headline "Online Open House is Now Closed" and a link to an archived version of the "Scoping Online Open House"; and "About the Project" with a video player showing a map of Oregon and the text "Oregon Passenger Rail Eugene - Portland CHOOSING A PATH FORWARD". At the bottom of the "About the Project" section, it states: "The project is studying options for improved passenger rail service. The study area includes the..."

www.OregonPassengerRail.org