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Metro

HISTORIC WASHINGTON PARK LOOP REPORT APPENDIX

Washington Park Train Task Force



Metro



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APPENDIX A

History of the Train

Train service between the Oregon Zoo and Washington Park operated from 1960 to 2013.

At the time of closure, the Oregon Zoo, which is operated through Metro, transitioned to operating a smaller loop only within Zoo grounds. The Zoo Loop currently operates one train on a 20-minute cycle during peak season. The Historic Washington Park Loop was a 30-minute ride.

In 2020, the train was added to the National Register of Historic Places under three areas of significance: Community Planning and Development, Entertainment/Recreation and Engineering. Specifically, the train exhibits these significant features:

- Physical manifestation of a one-of-a-kind state-wide cooperative effort of over twenty-five thousand people that has made a lasting and significant contribution to Oregon culture and history under the category of Community Planning and Development. The train was engineered, designed and built by professional railroad engineers and train designers and is significant as a small-scale example of railroad and train engineering.
- Physical features distinctive to post-war era recreation railroads present in the United States built to entertain the children born after the war. The contributing buildings,

structures and rolling stock possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

While inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places highlights the cultural significance of the train, it does not obligate any entity to restore or operate the service. Preservation may be achieved through interpretive or static displays rather than continued or resumed operations of historic route.

Since the closure of the Historic Washington Park Loop, several plans and studies (Appendix B) have resulted in the opportunity to hear from the community about their interest in the train, including:

- The 2018 update to the Washington Park Master Plan which conducted community engagement regarding changes to the future of the park. There were some Task Force members and organizations from the current Task Force that also participated on the planning committee.
- In April 2017, feedback was collected from over 2,000 people.
- In November 2017, 329 individuals completed an online survey in which more than 50% of respondents indicated that the master plan “very well” or “somewhat reflected” the vision and goals for the park.
- During the Portland City Council’s

review of the Washington Park Master Plan update in 2018, Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Fritz, Fish and Saltzman all voiced support that restoration of the Historic Washington Park Loop remain under consideration. Community testimony was strongly supportive for the Historic Washington Park Loop in that session. Of the 26 people who testified before City Council, 8 people supported restoring the train. One person supported the multiuse path and cafe and 4 people opposed the multiuse path.

- Mayor Wheeler asked if the Master Plan was guiding future development or a mandate. He said that since the Master Plan did not include the Historic Washington Park Loop, including it in the Transportation Management Plan signaled City Council interest and invited more detailed discussion on: What does it take to run it? What would it cost to rehabilitate it? Is that a fair interpretation? The response was that the Master Plan was a framework and a guiding

document, not a mandate.

- The nonprofit Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway was established in 2018.
- A petition to bring back the Historic Washington Park Loop garnered over 44,000 signatures on Change.org.
- Community members have contributed over \$60,000 in grassroots fundraising to support restoration efforts.

The Historic Washington Park Train is most comparable to the Disney Railroad in California Disneyland, which has five steam engines and is 1.2 miles long (36-inch gauge).

The Zooliner and the Oregon steamer were used in the Oregon Centennial celebration.

The Rose Festival Rose court princesses rode the train just after its inaugural run, and annually for several years.

APPENDIX B

Existing Data and Documentation

Several documents and additional analysis have been completed since the Historic Washington Park Loop was closed in 2013.

These materials were developed by different individuals and organizations in response to their own goals and priorities. As a result, they reflect varying methodologies, levels of detail and degrees of review. They have not been independently verified or reviewed by all stakeholders and may not reflect the most current information.

Below is a list of known data and notes regarding the contents of each document. The notes are pulled directly from the documents themselves, except some editing for ease of access including changing the names of the train loops to be consistent with what is used in the full report. Where this change has been made the report names are included in brackets ([Historic Washington Park Loop] or [Current Zoo Loop]).

Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway Documents

Studies	Author	Notes
2025 Washington Park Railroad Track Condition Report	Burgel Rail Group	<p>On April 28, 2025, Burgel Rail Group was asked by Kathy Goeddel to assess current track conditions of the Washington Park Railroad between the Zoo fence downhill to the Washington Park Station. This track has been out-of-service since October 2013, or roughly 12 years. Since that time, no maintenance has been performed on the trackage other than several groups of volunteers gathering to remove vegetation and trees that have fallen on the tracks during this time. Regardless, a recent inspection indicates that, except for a couple of minor issues, current track conditions are considered to be in fair to good shape. Minor roadbed damage at a culvert near Crib Wall #3, which occurred in 2013, could be repaired fairly easily. Also, a small landslide on a non-important section of the loop track near the Washington Park Station could be cleaned up whenever that section of track is required for future operations.</p> <p>Overall, the track structures including the rail, ties, switches and ballast are in relatively fair to good condition. The lack of weed and vegetation control over the past twelve years is evident but the track could be placed back into service without this cosmetic improvement. Furthermore, the condition of the rail and ties are such that in regards to the projected lifespan of the track structure as well as the overall</p>

		appearance of the roadbed (drainage, culverts and geologic setting), it is the author's opinion that there is no reason to suggest that the Washington Park Railroad couldn't be still operating trains without a major capital investment for another 15 to 20 years.
2025 Is another Geotechnical Assessment Required for the Washington Park Railway Roadbed?	Burgel Rail Group	<p>Based on the strength and scope of the two existing studies – KPFF's foundational geotechnical assessment and Shannon & Wilson's railroad-specific refinement- another geotechnical report is likely not needed at this time. Commissioning another report could introduce unnecessary delays and expenses, especially if it would merely replicate or second-guess already-sound conclusions. The combination of KPFF and Shannon & Willson provides a comprehensive, technically sound foundation for moving forward with restoration planning.</p> <p>If the scope of construction changes substantially (e.g., electrification, tunnel reinforcement or widening beyond the existing roadbed), if a regulatory agency requires an updated independent peer review, or if a funding source or permitting body demands a third-party verification as part of due diligence, then another study would be warranted.</p>
2025 Proposed Railroad Maintenance Shop Locations	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	Three diagrams showing potential locations for maintenance shops.
2025 Comprehensive Zoo Train Operations Scenarios	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	Eight different train operation scenarios including route, number of trains operating, departure frequency, departures per hour, average passengers per train, average passengers per hour, ticket price and average revenue per hour (maximum).
2025 Environmental Overlay Requirements	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	Notes from the 4/21/25 meeting with City of Portland Planning Bureau discussing the City's environmental permits planning and current zoning regulations
2025 Experts for Zoo Train Task Force	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	Two pages of resources including History & National Register of Historic Places Designation; Rail Infrastructure Restoration; Operations, maintenance & rolling stock; Portland City Council support for the train restorations (Dan Saltzman); Pathway alternatives & alignment options;

	Zoo Railway	Accessibility at the Rose Garden Station; Benchmarking leading zoo trains; and Electrification. As well as a list of tours organized outside task force meetings.
2025 Protecting Railcars in the Pacific Northwest: Preventing Accelerated Deterioration	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	<p>In regions like the Pacific Northwest, where wet weather and high humidity are the norm, leaving railcars exposed to the elements leads to more than just gradual wear, it results in rapid and accelerating deterioration.</p> <p>Corrosion doesn't occur at a steady pace. Once rust begins to form, it actually speeds up over time. Rust creates a rough, flaky surface that traps moisture and pollutants, allowing damage to spread deeper into the metal. This process is well-documented by industry experts, including the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE), who note that corrosion in damp environments like ours follows a non-linear, accelerating pattern.</p>
2024 Analysis of Restoring the Rose Garden Loop of the Zoo Train and Building a Multiuse Path	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	<p>Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway urge Portland leaders to stand behind restoring the iconic Zoo Train's [Historic Washington Park Loop] instead of developing a new multiuse trail on the rail bed. Restoring the rail line to the Rose Garden is favored by thousands of citizens who have signed a petition of support. Trackway repairs and accessibility upgrades to the "Rose Garden" Station can be made at significantly less cost and time than would be required to develop a new paved multiuse trail. Turning SW Kingston into a one-way street would provide a multiuse trail at very low cost and risk. Compared to a trail, the train would bring mobility and joy to a broader diversity of users, including seniors, young children and people with disabilities. Nearby, a trail utilizing a portion of SW Kingston Drive would accommodate cyclists and walkers with mobility issues. There are already many beautiful hiking trails between the Rose Garden and the Oregon Zoo.</p>
2024 Consist Evaluation	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	<p>The following are some of the photos I took during a March 2022 visit to the Oregon Zoo of various cars in the consist of the WP&Z Rwy. Zoo management and Jeff Honeyman, the Zoo's full-time railway employee, was kind enough to allow me access to the consist and to see first-hand some of the challenges the Zoo faces in maintaining the rolling stock for the railway.</p> <p>My goal was to take these photos and relevant information back to the committee as part of the committee's ongoing effort to assist the Oregon Zoo in building a more stable operating future for the railway. Most important, Jeff assures everyone that the trains are in good, safe running condition.</p>

2021 Plan for Restoration of the Zoo Railway Rose Garden Loop	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	<p>The Zoo Train Restoration Team is a group of organizations and individuals interested in restoring operation of the Washington Park Line of the Zoo Railway. Key partners are the Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation, The Northwest Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, The Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association, the Sylvan Highlands Neighborhood Association, and several individuals. This group brings considerable practical rail expertise, access to railway professionals, the potential for public outreach, and the potential for fundraising from individuals and businesses.</p> <p>Our objective is to work collaboratively with the Oregon Zoo and Metro to develop the business case for the restoration and operation of the Rose Garden Loop, to develop plans for the long-term operations and funding of the Zoo Railway, and seek approval and funding from Metro for the Zoo.</p>
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Financial Documents

Studies	Author	Notes
2025 Updated; Lower Washington Park Railroad Track	Oregon Zoo	<p>The [Historic Washington Park Loop] is approximately 4.5x longer than the [Current Zoo Loop] and would require operation of the station near the Rose Garden. Based on input from zoo Guest Services management, an assumption of \$12.00 was used for general admission rail tickets for the [Historic Washington Park Loop] with no change to the [Current Zoo Loop] pricing of \$5.00. These prices were increased to \$14.00 and \$6.00, respectively, for the second half of our 10-year forecast (years 6 – 10).</p> <p>During past operations of the [Historic Washington Park Loop], there was approximately a \$1.50 price difference between the [Current Zoo Loop] and the [Historic Washington Park Loop]. Also, there was no choice for guests as to which train ride they could take, as the tracks ran exclusive to one another, depending on the time of year. However, if the [Historic Washington Park Loop] reopened, it has been determined that neither of these operating choices would remain feasible. Operating costs for the [Historic Washington Park Loop] require a higher ticket price for the track to remain profitable. And to remain equitable, the Zoo needs to be able to offer the cheaper [Current Zoo Loop] during the [Historic Washington Park Loop]'s operating months. The shorter trip choice with less wait times also helps maintain guest expectations and assists in managing stay times and parking lot turnover on busy days. Our adjusted revenue model assumes given the presence of</p>

choice between the two tracks, and the inherent price difference, one out of four guests that ride the train from March – September will choose to ride the [Historic Washington Park Loop].

Currently, total operations of the [Current Zoo Loop] require approximately 3.55 FTE. With the addition of the [Historic Washington Park Loop], an additional 4.25 FTE (7.55 total) would be required. Year-to-year changes in salaries range from 4% - 6.5% based on updated Metro salary schedules.

The model for estimating fuel costs was updated by using the current [Current Zoo Loop] budget as a baseline, and scaling for the [Historic Washington Park Loop] based on estimated difference in trips the locomotives would be taking per year. Year-to-year inflation factor for fuel is 2% based on current market conditions.

Based on the updated expense model, it is no longer estimated that reopening the [Historic Washington Park Loop] would be profitable over the 10-year operating period.

This is due primarily to growing personnel expenses. In 2023, the analysis projected \$8.9M in total personnel costs to operate the [Historic Washington Park Loop] over 10 years, whereas that figure is now \$12.5M. These increased costs do impact the [Current Zoo Loop] operation—as the updated analysis shows less cumulative profit/loss over the 10-year period—but the updated model now projects more gross revenue over the 10 years than the 2023 model. Another important consideration is that the Oregon Zoo now has a clearer understanding of post-COVID operations than it did in 2023. Initially, the baseline for the [Current Zoo Loop] capture rate, which reflected both pre- and post-COVID data, was 17.81%. However, with updated ridership data since the train reopened in June 2021, that baseline has increased to 21.54%. The Zoo is also using a timed and capped attendance model to ensure the best possible guest experience.

These attendance limits are carefully calibrated to support efficient parking turnover, helping to optimize both total attendance and the quality of the parking experience. Reopening the [Historic Washington Park Loop] could disrupt these efforts by extending guest visit durations, slowing parking turnover and ultimately limiting overall attendance on high-traffic days. These impacts would not only affect guest satisfaction but also reduce potential revenue.

It's also important to remember that capital costs to restore the [Historic Washington Park Loop] and [Rose Garden station]

		<p>were noted as a major consideration in the 2023 analysis, and that hasn't changed. Original estimates for that work are now 10 years old, and the economic climate continues to be unpredictable. The cost of that work would greatly impact the return on investment of reopening the [Historic Washington Park Loop].</p> <p>Based on these factors, it is still our opinion that the best financial decision for the Oregon Zoo is to continue current operations of only the [Current Zoo Loop] and not reopen the [Historic Washington Park Loop].</p>
2025 Response to the Oregon Zoo's Updated Finance Memo	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	<p>Despite repeated requests dating back to 2019, including a formal public records request submitted on April 27, 2025, we have not been granted access to the Oregon Zoo's income statements for the train. As such, our feedback is with limited financial transparency. Nevertheless, several key assumptions in the Zoo's financial analysis are flawed. If corrected, these assumptions suggest the Washington Park Loop would be more financially viable than the current Zoo Loop, particularly with appropriate investment. (See Appendix A for the complete P&L analysis.) This analysis outlines six flawed assumptions in the Zoo's financial model and presents a more realistic scenario in which the Washington Park Loop is not only viable, but strategically advantageous.</p>
2025 Washington Park and Zoo Railway Business Case	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	<p>Our analysis draws from Metro's 2023 financial review, which shows the Washington Park Train would generate an average of \$369K annually—just \$170K less than the [Current Zoo Loop]—and we believe it will be more profitable.</p> <p>The initial capital investment for approximately the first five years would be \$6.2 million, consisting of \$3.7 million for the [Current Zoo Loop] and \$2.5 million for the [Historic Washington Park Loop]. This amount would finance replacement of the train maintenance building that was removed during the past zoo bond construction, restoration of the Zooliner and five cars (201-205) and repairs for the Oregon steam train and its four Centennial cars inside the zoo. For the [Historic Washington Park Loop], we recommend replacement of the one failed crib wall and the three crib walls that would most likely need replacement in the short term. There would be removal of a small landslide and additional minor track maintenance. The Rose Garden Station needs a new roof and painting. The Oregon Express would be restored for the run so that three trains would be available. Lastly, we would recommend a comprehensive safety audit by rail experts and a plan on training and maintenance related to the audit.</p>

Funding the capital to repair the Zoo Train is financially sound and a strategic opportunity. Not only will the return on investment be positive, but there will be tangible and intangible benefits to the Zoo for generations to come. This was true when the train was built and remains true today.

Documents Regarding Other Zoos

Studies	Author	Notes
2024 Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium Benchmarking	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	Information about the train that runs in the Omaha Zoo, including background on railroad, financial summary, operations and train speech.
2021 St Louis Zoo Benchmarking Report	Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway	Information about the train that runs in the St Louis Zoo, including background on railroad, financial summary, budget and operations costs. Financial data was update for the current year.
2023 List of zoos with trains	Oregon Zoo	Includes a list of zoos with trains, including those with over 1 million visitors and trains that extend beyond zoo propriety boundaries.
2024 Report-back on trains that run off campus	Oregon Zoo	Includes information about outside zoo route trains at the San Antonio Zoo, Fort Wayne Zoo and Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona.

Shannon and Wilson Documents

Studies	Author	Notes
2024 Railway Reconnaissance Report Summary	Shannon & Wilson, Inc.	Shannon & Wilson staff provided responses to several of the comments by the Zoo (shown in blue) including clarification around the scope of the 2021 and 2023 revised report, as well as further studies and evaluations that would be needed in the future.
2023 Revised Geotechnical Engineering Report and Executive Summary	Shannon & Wilson, Inc.	<p>The purpose of this revised report is to update cost estimates associated with the conceptual mitigation alternatives include in the November 2021 report to account for cost escalations. This report supersedes our November 2021 draft report.</p> <p>Overall, in our opinion the tracks are in good condition. In addition to geotechnical considerations presented in this</p>

report, the railroad would benefit from removal of ivy and other vegetation that has taken over since the railroad has been out of service. Track ballast would be beneficial along most of the alignment to help hold the track in place.

We understand that the railroad only operates during daylight hours and when the weather is favorable. The train runs slow enough that the operator can stop if a tree is on the tracks or damage to the track has occurred. The Risk of landslides or retaining wall failure occurring during the summer months and during periods of dry weather when trains would be running is very low.

We identified two areas that are currently preventing the train from running and several areas that should be budgeted for and addressed in a long-term maintenance plan. Geotechnical issues which need to be addressed before operations can resume are as follows: Crib Wall Number 3 has failed as a result of uncontrolled drainage during a storm and is not retaining the track shoulder. A slide from an adjacent bluff at Station 56+00 has covered the track with slide debris and trees and needs to be cleared.

2023
Geotechnical
Summary

Friends of
the
Washington
Park and
Zoo
Railway

The Shannon & Wilson Report (Dec. 2023) presents findings from a site reconnaissance conducted in September 2021 along the Washington Park Line in Portland, Oregon. The report identifies key geotechnical issues and recommends minimal repairs required to reopen the Oregon Zoo train line. This approach aligns with standard railroad industry practices: address critical failures to restore operations and revenue, then monitor and maintain over time.

Given the complex governmental ownership and management of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway (WP&ZRR), a proactive restoration strategy is recommended. Specifically, Crib Walls 1, 2, 3, and 4 should be replaced concurrently, as these present the highest likelihood of failure within the next 5–10 years. This work would be performed alongside the necessary removal of the small landslide and minor track work to expedite the reopening of the line.

Key Findings and Recommendations (Shannon & Wilson Report)

Overall Condition:

- The tracks are generally in good condition. Track ballast should be added along much of the alignment to support the rails.

Immediate Repairs Needed:

- Crib Wall 3 has failed due to stormwater drainage issues and requires replacement with a soldier pile wall or short bridge.
- Landslide Debris (STA 56+00): Approximately 300 cubic yards of debris need to be cleared to reopen the track.

Long-Term Maintenance Plan:

- Conduct annual reconnaissance inspections, ideally before seasonal operations resume.
- Monitor all remaining crib walls and repair only as inspections dictate

2021 Draft
Geotechnical
Engineering
Report

Shannon &
Wilson, Inc.

The Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway commissioned this study.

Neal McCulloch, PE, LEG, Director of Railroad Services for Shannon & Wilson, conducted an updated geotechnical evaluation of the Washington Park train alignment building on the prior thorough studies completed by GeoDesign in 2014 and 2015 for the Oregon Zoo. The assessment concluded that overall track conditions remain stable, and there have been no significant geotechnical changes since the earlier evaluations. The observed maintenance needs primarily involve routine repairs to address localized settlement, drainage improvements and track structure maintenance consistent with normal wear overtime. No major slope failures or structural instabilities were identified, and with standard repair measures, the alignment remains suitable for continued operation.

2021 Railway
Reconnaissance
Report
Summary

Oregon
Zoo

The Oregon Zoo responding to the 2021 Geotechnical Engineering Report commissioned by Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway.

The report provides a basic reconnaissance of geotechnical conditions along the historical railway route and includes a useful table summarizing localized wall and landslide mitigation costs. However, its conclusions remain highly limited in scope, and it significantly understates the true complexity, regulatory burden, and cost of restoring train service to the public.

Washington Park Documents

Studies	Author	Notes
2025 Transportation Access Plan Summary	Explore Washington Park	<p>Explore Washington Park’s Transportation Access Plan (TAP) presents a 10-year roadmap to improve mobility, manage growth, and enhance the visitor experience across Washington Park. With nearly 3 million annual visitors and an anticipated 33% increase by 2035, the TAP emphasizes multimodal access and strategic parking and transportation management. This report focuses on the most critical transportation access issues—including parking constraints, shifting transportation mode share—and a strategic framework for addressing these challenges.</p> <p>Key Transportation Challenges</p> <p>Washington Park is experiencing increasing pressure on its transportation systems due to rising visitor numbers, changes in travel behavior, and limited infrastructure. Key challenges include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Parking: Parking is the most visible and pressing challenge across Washington Park. There are approximately 1,400 designated parking spaces within the park, with about 900 of those parking spaces concentrated in the lots near the Oregon Zoo. During the Park’s peak season (late May through early September), parking near the Zoo and Portland Japanese Garden regularly hit full capacity—often before 11am—resulting in vehicles circling the lots and park roadways in search of spaces. Parking occupancy exceeds capacity during 82% of peak season days in the areas of the park near the Portland Japanese Garden and International Rose Test Garden. Roughly 700 additional spaces are available at off-site lots located off of SW Westgate Drive and SW Raab Road near the south end of the park, which EWP operates as overflow parking primarily serving the Oregon Zoo. • Decline in Transit Use: From 2017 to 2023, transit use declined from 22% to 13%, while car use rose to 71%. In 2024, transit slid to an estimated 8-11% with private vehicle usage up to 78-81%. • Projected Growth in Attendance: Annual park visitors are projected to increase by over 30% by 2035, which would create an onsite parking shortfall of more than 1,000 spaces if current mode shares persist. <p>TAP Strategic Goals</p>

		<p>To respond to the growing demand and strained resources, the TAP lays out a strategic framework emphasizing a balanced and sustainable transportation system. Key strategic goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mode Shift Targets: Restore the 2019 mode share by increasing transit use by 10-15% and reducing single-occupancy vehicle use by up to 14% across all park venues.• Multimodal Enhancements: Investments in park shuttles, improved wayfinding, better bike infrastructure, and expanded transit incentives are prioritized to support accessibility and reduce parking demand.• Parking Management: Strategies include assessing & managing parking rates, reviewing employee and volunteer parking policies, and exploring a range of parking solutions in designated high-demand areas.• Data-Informed Decision Making: The TAP incorporates annual surveys, ridership counts, and utilization data to track progress toward access and sustainability goals.
2024 Washington Park Visitor Report	Explore Washington Park	<p>The visitor report is a comprehensive analysis of attendance and engagement in Washington Park. It aims to provide insights into visitor behavior, demographics and preferences, serving as a critical tool for planning and improving visitor experiences.</p> <p>Age Distribution: A balanced representation across age groups, with 30% aged 25-34, indicating strong interest from millennials.</p> <p>Cultural Diversity: White/Caucasian: 71%; Asian/Asian American: 12%; Hispanic/Latino: 10%; Multiracial: 4%</p> <p>Economic and Educational Background: 45% earn over \$100,000, with some income non-disclosure. 66% hold a bachelor's degree or higher.</p> <p>Local vs. Tourist Appeal: International Rose Test Garden and Portland Japanese Garden attract over 60% out-of-state visitors in summer months. Oregon Zoo predominantly draws locals.</p> <p>Seasonal Attendance Patterns: Peaks in August, with family-friendly spots like the Oregon Zoo attracting more families.</p> <p>Mode of Transport: Private Vehicles: 78% during peak times. Active Transportation: 42% of intrapark travel. Opportunities exist to promote public transit.</p>

Peak vs. Off-Peak Exploration: Peak: 45% visit multiple locations. Off-Peak: 32% visit multiple locations.

Venue-Specific Trends: High cross-visitation at the International Rose Test Garden and World Forestry Center. Hoyt Arboretum is notable for attracting visitors interested in exploring multiple locations within Washington Park. Oregon Zoo maintains strong standalone appeal.

2023 Washington Park Parking Program Service Delivery Plan FY 2023/24	Portland Parks and Recreation	The City of Portland has partnered with the main stakeholders of Washington Park and created the 2012 Parking and Transportation Agreement. In this agreement, Portland Parks & Recreation agreed to manage a pay to park program, provide enhanced Park Ranger presence and enhance transportation maintenance. In addition, part of the funding would support a Transportation Management Association to operate shuttles for the park and plan for future transportation needs. The funds raised in the Washington Park Pay to Park program will be utilized to improve Washington Park and the guest experience.
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2023 Washington Park Parking Management Toolkit	Portland Parks and Recreation	<p>Parking is a scarce resource in Washington Park. On peak days, it is common for more than 10,000 visitors to travel to the Park and there is not enough capacity for everyone to drive and park. Nor is this desirable for parkgoers with the current infrastructure. Excessive vehicle traffic creates conflicts with pedestrians, bicyclists and other users of the Park's roadways, which can degrade the overall experience for everyone.</p> <p>To address parking scarcity, reduce congestion and incentivize the use of other access options, Washington Park implemented paid parking in early 2014 after multiple years of outreach to stakeholders, visitors and neighbors. One hundred percent of parking proceeds are reinvested within Washington Park, and a vital component of the Paid Parking program was the creation of Explore Washington Park (EWP), whose mission is to improve Park access and the overall visitor experience within a system that offers the most efficient mix of access options for all users.</p> <p>This Toolkit lays out a framework of parking management strategies with a simple goal: Use pricing, management tools and incentives to provide visitors with a wide variety of high-quality and easy access options so that they can choose the mode of travel that works best for their trip. Even with a highly successful transportation demand management (TDM) program in place, most visitors will likely continue to drive and park.</p>
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2018 Washington Park Master Plan Update	Portland Parks and Recreation	<p><i>See Appendix E for more information.</i></p> <p>Phase 1 (1-5 years): Connect the north and south ends of the park with a regional trail for bikes and pedestrians along the zoo train corridor.</p> <p>Phase 2 (5-15 years): Train Station Improvements: Improve station to include a seasonal Depot Café, and restore view point. Estimated to cost \$700,991</p> <p>Regional trail for pedestrians and bicycles: Add a modified path to the train corridor or replace the train tracks with a full 12-foot paved path and improve drainage.</p> <p>Beginning in 1960, park visitors could travel between the Oregon Zoo and International Rose Test Garden by train. The two-mile round trip took about 30 [sic] 35-40 minutes. The corridor has been quiet since September 2013. Unstable conditions and cost to repair the tracks outside of the Oregon Zoo have silenced the clack of the rails, but the corridor offers an unique experience and vantage point in Washington Park. Portland Parks & Recreation is coordinating with Metro to determine how to best utilize the corridor and train station.</p> <p>A regional trail built within this corridor would improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in Washington Park. If the Zoo Train remains in operation, a narrower version of the regional trail should be explored. The tracks are never steeper than 4.5%, and a paved regional trail is an opportunity to reconnect the north and south ends of Washington Park.</p> <p>Regional Trail between J Gate and Train Station; \$10,200,000; Explore Washington Park, Metro: * Project to be studied as part of Transportation Management Plan. Allowed by right – assumes that no soil disturbance will take place in the Environmental Zones (c or p). Environmental Review Likely, but more specifics on the size, location and materials of project is required to make a determination if located all or partially in "c" zone given path's width and paving.</p> <p>During the development of the Washington Park Master Plan, the Oregon Zoo informed the City of Portland that the zoo was not going to make repairs to the zoo train's [Historic Washington Park Loop]. The City proposed turning the rail line to a multiuse trail. When this plan was presented to the City Council in 2018 there was considerable public testimony and City Council support to restore the loop</p>
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rather than to turn the right of way into a multiuse trail at a cost of \$10.2 million.

Other Documents

Studies	Author	Notes
2025 The Oregon Rail Heritage Center: A Model of Public-Nonprofit Collaboration	Friends of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway	<p>The Oregon Rail Heritage Center is more than a museum—it's a living, breathing example of how public and nonprofit sectors can join forces to protect and celebrate shared heritage. Through vision, cooperation, and mutual respect, the City of Portland and ORHF have preserved vital pieces of railroad history while creating a welcoming, educational, and inspiring space for the public.</p> <p>As other communities and public agencies look for ways to safeguard their own industrial or cultural assets, the ORHC offers a blueprint for success: align public ownership with nonprofit leadership, empower community volunteers, and prioritize transparency and impact. This model doesn't just preserve the past—it builds a sustainable and participatory future.</p> <p>The Oregon Rail Heritage Center stands as a compelling case study in how public ownership and nonprofit initiative can work hand-in-hand to achieve lasting cultural and historical preservation. At the heart of this partnership is a unique division of roles: the City of Portland owns the historic locomotives and the land on which the center sits, while the Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation (ORHF), a dedicated nonprofit, takes on the operational, fundraising, and programming responsibilities.</p>
2025 Willamette Shore Trolley (Lake Oswego Trolley)	Friends of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway	<p>The Willamette Shore Trolley (WST) operates on a 7-mile route along the historic Jefferson Street Rail Line, passing through notable landmarks such as the Elk Rock Tunnel and the Riverwood Trestle. The line is owned and maintained by a consortium of local and regional agencies, including the City of Portland, City of Lake Oswego, Metro, TriMet, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). This collaborative structure helps preserve the corridor and maintain its potential for future public transit use.</p> <p>The City of Lake Oswego serves as the manager and administrator of the consortium's budgets and annual work plans and oversees the operating contract with Vintage Trolley Inc. (VTI), which owns the two trolleys—cars 513 and 514—and provides day-to-day operations. The Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society (OERHS) supports the</p>

service by providing volunteers, expertise in historic streetcar operations, and insurance coverage.

The intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) governing the WST have been instrumental to its operation and maintenance. These agreements—such as the Management IGA and the Maintenance and Funding IGA—define the roles, responsibilities, and financial contributions of each member agency. The most recent amendment extends the Maintenance and Funding IGA through 2031, ensuring ongoing collaboration and support.

The effectiveness of these agreements is evident in the transformation of the line since the consortium assumed control in 1987. At that time, the route consisted of about six miles of track in marginal condition, with no stations, passing tracks, or maintenance facilities. Since then, the consortium has overseen the construction of the Lake Oswego maintenance and storage shop, passenger stations at both ends of the line, an office and retail space in Lake Oswego, a passing track at the Sellwood Bridge midpoint, a track extension in Lake Oswego, and two secure track maintenance sidings. Much of this work has been funded through grants.

The collaborative nature of the consortium has enabled the preservation of the rail line and the continuation of the trolley service, serving as a model for regional heritage transportation management.

2025 Letter to Chair Clark and Chair Lewis	Dan Saltzman	As a long-time advocate for accessible transportation in our community, I want to express my strong support for the restoration of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway and to underscore the vital role it plays in Portland’s cultural heritage and visitor experience.
2025 Portland Streetcar	Friends of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway	<p>The Portland Streetcar system is a hallmark of modern urban transit in the United States, blending historical roots with contemporary infrastructure to serve the city's dynamic neighborhoods.</p> <p>The Portland Streetcar is owned by the City of Portland and operated through a collaborative partnership involving the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), TriMet, and Portland Streetcar, Inc. (PSI). PBOT manages the system’s infrastructure—including tracks, vehicles, and facilities—and oversees daily operations. TriMet, the region’s transit authority, provides professional operators and mechanics, as well as financial and operational support. PSI, a nonprofit organization, plays a key role in strategic planning,</p>

budgeting assistance, private-sector engagement, and customer service.

This partnership is governed by a 2012 Master Agreement that outlines roles, funding responsibilities, and shared goals. Additional intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) support specific projects, such as expansion efforts or capital improvements. Together, this structure allows Portland Streetcar to operate as an integrated, city-owned transit service with regional support and nonprofit collaboration, enhancing mobility and connectivity within Portland's central city.

The streetcar system has been a catalyst for urban development, with nearly half of Portland's housing units built since 2001 located along its routes. Additionally, 39% of the city's affordable housing units are situated near the streetcar lines. Environmentally, the streetcar offers a zero-emission transit option, aligning with Portland's sustainability goals by reducing reliance on personal vehicles and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

2025 Washington Park Loop – Project Development Estimated Costs	Oregon Zoo	<p>The purpose of the project development phase is to identify and evaluate the full range of requirements, risks and costs associated with restoration. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting technical assessments of track conditions, structural elements and geotechnical stability. • Evaluating rolling stock for mechanical integrity, regulatory compliance and historical preservation. • Analyzing operational logistics, staffing needs and insurance requirements. • Developing cost estimates for both planning and potential capital work. • Assessing potential impacts to park operations, visitors and surrounding ecosystems. <p>This work is a prerequisite to any informed decision-making. Without it, the true scale, feasibility and implications of resuming [Historic Washington Park Loop] operations cannot be responsibly understood or evaluated.</p>
2025 Washington	Oregon Zoo	Resuming [Historic Washington Park Loop] operations for the Oregon Zoo train is not simply a matter of restarting a

Park Loop: Considerations, Risks, and Planning Requirements	<p>dormant service after more than a decade. Instead, it represents the launch of a new business operation. Several critical factors necessitate this comprehensive approach, including equipment aging and depreciation, infrastructure degradation, evolving geotechnical conditions, updated operational requirements, increased risk mitigation, regulatory compliance, the train's listing on the National Register of Historic Places, strategic goals, and the need for enhanced fiduciary oversight.</p> <p>This endeavor goes beyond minimal short-term repairs aimed at achieving basic functionality. It demands a holistic evaluation and significant investment to ensure safe, fiscally sustainable operations that deliver lasting value to the community. Key considerations to align resumed operations with desired outcomes include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Safety, security and risk mitigation: Implementing robust protocols, systems and upgrades to ensure operational safety, asset protection and risk minimization. · Accessibility and equity: Achieving full ADA compliance and enhancing inclusivity to better serve all community members. · Sustainability: Reducing the environmental impact of train operations through eco-friendly practices and technologies. · Financial stability: Assessing operational, maintenance and capital expenses while securing sustainable funding for the short and long term. · Operational logistics: Optimizing schedules, routes and support systems to enhance efficiency and reliability. · Staffing requirements: Identifying personnel needs to ensure safe, effective and sustainable operations. · Continuity of operations: Creating contingency plans to minimize disruptions and support long-term functionality. · Preservation of historic integrity: Adhering to guidelines and practices that respect and maintain the train's historic designation while enabling modern functionality.
2025 Analysis of the Oregon Zoo's Document entitled Zoo Washington Park Loop Restoration	<p>Burgel Rail Group</p> <p>(1)The costs listed under each section have been inflated to justify the Oregon Zoo's position which is, apparently, to not reestablish operations on the Washington Park section of the Zoo Railroad. This report seems to forget that there is an existing train operation within the Oregon Zoo for which much of this apparent financial obligation must also be applied. I describe this aspect of their report in greater depth below. Of course, if these inflated numbers are part</p>

Planning Requirements

of Oregon Zoo's long-term strategy to no longer continue operation of the Zoo Train which currently operates over trackage within the Zoo, then that's another story.

(2) In my opinion, much of justification used in these two reports (Zoo Washington Park Loop Restoration Planning Requirements - June 2025 plus its Executive Summary submitted in a separate report) that were furnished to Metro's Zoo Train Task Force has been based on their view that the effort to reestablish service on this historical railroad needs to be approved as a new entity. The writers of this report seemed to have forgotten that rail operations were proceeding seemingly without regard to many of their concerns prior to the cessation of service in 2013-2014. Rather, stopping train operations on the Washington Park trackage was capricious, arbitrary and without being given due process. Accordingly, none of these approvals envisioned in their report have any merit and further efforts to direct the conversation in this direction should be vigorously rejected.

(3) Concerning the cost estimate (**Infrastructure & Rolling Stock Assessments**): The Washington Park Railroad as well as the trackage within the Zoo are not connected to the general rail network and therefore the cost estimate based on Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations are not, strictly speaking, applicable. To date, Zoo Railroad personnel currently working at the Zoo have resorted to using ASTM F2960-16, Standard Practice for Permanent Amusement Railway Rides and Related Devices. In personal conversation with Jeff Honeyman, former Zoo Railroad manager, he assured me that maintenance of the track structure was based on a blend of these two standards. FRA and ASTM. On May 24, 2025, Kathy Goeddel commissioned Bill Burgel, author of this report, to inspect the Washington Park Railroad. Bill is qualified to inspect track based on FRA's 49 CFR 213 regulation. His assessment, provided under separate cover, negates the requirement to perform this inspection. For the record, the Washington Park Railroad portion of the Zoo Railroad has no bridges or tunnels and has only one at-grade highway/rail crossing along its 7,400-ft alignment.

The **geotech surveys** have already been completed and accepted by Oregon Zoo staff. If additional geotechnical instrumentation is being recommended, this stipulation should also apply to the buildings within the Oregon Zoo itself as the zoo sits on the same unstable (landslide)

landform as the Washington Park Railroad. Indeed, one might argue that the Washington park Railroad is located on much more stable ground as compared to the real estate on which the Oregon Zoo now finds itself!

Assessing the **condition of the rolling stock** is incumbent on the Oregon Zoo as this equipment is still under the purview of the Oregon Zoo. Accordingly, this cost should be deleted from this report. The stated need for **environmental impact assessment** is irrelevant as the Washington Park Railroad was operating in fair to good condition without any restrictions until taken out of service in either 2013 or 2014 by officials at the Oregon Zoo for reasons known only to themselves. To now turn around and say that an environmental impact assessment is now required is disingenuous at best.

And last, the **construction and assess feasibility assessment** is not required as the maintenance along the railroad as well as the reconstruction of the crib walls, should these walls be funded in accordance to the recommendations of the two Geotech reports that have been accepted by the Oregon Zoo, will be performed by on-track equipment. Anyone knowledgeable about rail operations would quickly realize that the most economical as well as efficient method for performing work along a railroad is to perform this maintenance and/or construction from the track structure itself. Specialized equipment can be placed on railroad flatcars then transported to the work site to not only deliver the materials needed but to drive the piling necessary for crib wall construction. Track-mounted cranes can then simply drop the pre-cast panels into place with minimal if any disruption to the local environment. No roadway access would be necessary or required.

Other costs such as **planning and design** for crib wall and other structures have been included in the cost estimates already submitted to the Oregon Zoo.

The **Financial and Economic Analyses** are now underway. And finally, the **Contingency and Administrative Costs** should be included in the costs estimates for the recommended geotechnical work previously submitted.

2023 Metro Voter Views of an Oregon Zoo	Metro and FM3 Research	Poling data on voters views toward the Zoo, as well as a potential bond renewal measure. Voter priority questions included a question about converting the Zoo train engines to electric which had 38% of respondents rating it as extremely
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Bond Renewal Measure		or very important. “Rebuilding the train where they had been closed outside the zoo property” had 28% who viewed it extremely or very important. When that question was asked with an estimated budget of \$10 million, that went to 22%.
2020 National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	Melissa Darby	Information about the history of the tracks, depot and rolling stock.

APPENDIX C

Additional Challenges

The Task Force discussed the following challenges during their meetings.

Current Park-Specific Context

Washington Park is experiencing increasing pressure on its transportation systems due to rising visitor numbers, changes in travel behavior and limited infrastructure, including:

- Limited parking in Washington Park on the north end (near the gardens) as well as the south end close to the Zoo. Closure of the Children's Museum and timed entry at the Zoo have improved the parking demand at the south end since 2019.
- Parking near the Rose Garden and Portland Japanese Garden exceeds capacity before 11am on most peak-season days, with occupancy above 100% more than 80% of the time.
- Transit use has declined since 2019, while private vehicle use has risen above 78%, underscoring the need to align any train investment with park-wide mode shift goals.
- The 2025 public opening of the Washington Park Reservoir is expected to further increase visitation to the north area of the

park.

- Access into and traffic flow through Washington Park.
- Cultural changes that decrease willingness to wait in line to access Park features, park vehicles, etc.

Train/Rolling Stock

The current condition of the train infrastructure and rolling stock reflects a broader transition in Zoo operations following the closure of the Historic Washington Park Loop. This shift was a deliberate and mission-aligned decision, enabling the Zoo to concentrate on delivering an on-campus train experience that supports guest engagement, accessibility and sustainability. The Zoo no longer maintains the personnel, facilities or operational systems required to support train service beyond its grounds.

As a result, the following barriers to restoring the Washington Park segment now exist:

- The 3 trains and 5 engines have maintenance needs.
- Age of engines, cars and infrastructure.
- Current and future availability of maintenance engineers.
- Ability to perform ongoing repairs/maintenance.

- Facilities that store and maintain rolling stock were decommissioned and are no longer available.
- Challenges finding engineers to run the current diesel trains.
- Restoring operations outside the Zoo would require investment in equipment, infrastructure, personnel and long-term ownership and operational responsibility.

Complicated Ownership Structure

Washington Park is owned by the City of Portland. The Zoo, a Metro property, manages the railroad assets but does not own them. On May 12, 1977, an agreement was signed between Metro (Metropolitan Service District) and the City of Portland, Ordinance No. 143589, wherein the City of Portland leased the Zoo Railway to the Metropolitan Service District. The terms said no cost to Metro, and included the railroad line, a 20-foot right-of-way along the entire route of the railroad line and the entire Washington Park terminal, which is the train station southwest of the Rose Garden. This lease does not obligate Metro or the Zoo to operate the Historic Washington Park Loop.

Other barriers identified by the Task Force include:

- Lack of alignment between the Oregon Zoo's current mission and operation of the Historic Washington Park Loop. The Zoo has no plans to maintain and restore the trains needed to operate the Historic Washington Park Loop in the next 10 years,

leading to further deterioration.

- Concerns about liability with using volunteers to complete work on the tracks as was done in the past.
- City of Portland owns Washington Park, the train/rolling stock, and train tracks. However, the City does not operate, maintain, fund, improve, or manage either train loop.
- Metro has an easement for the land under the tracks within the Zoo.
- The Oregon Zoo managed the Washington Park train and was financially responsible for decisions regarding its operation.

Funding

- The capital expense and long-term operating costs of the Washington Park train are subject to significant dispute. No comprehensive financial plan has been developed, and there is no identified source of sustained funding for capital reinvestment, operations or maintenance.
- Whether reinstating the Washington Park train would result in net financial benefit is also contested. Available data does not support a clear conclusion, and the potential for revenue generation remains speculative—particularly given the aging diesel equipment, seasonal ridership and operational limitations of the historic system.

Topographical Considerations

- Geological instability throughout Washington Park presents ongoing challenges for infrastructure development and long-term maintenance.
- Steep slopes, soil movement and past landslide activity affect several sections of the former rail alignment, introducing considerable liability and

engineering risk for any agency or organization that might pursue restoration.

- These conditions raise substantial questions about safety, cost and long-term resilience, particularly in the absence of a designated operator or lead agency with the capacity to own and maintain such infrastructure.

APPENDIX D

Additional Opportunities

Task Force members identified several opportunities, including changing who owns the rolling stock and train tracks, which can increase the opportunity for grants and donor support.

Additional opportunities include increasing civic pride through returned operations of the historic train, as well as offering greater transportation options for visitors in Washington Park and the return of a longer train experience that many Portlanders remember fondly.

Ownership Changes

Task Force members discussed the opportunity for a third-party operator for the Washington Park train via an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) as one possible route to restore full service to Washington Park. The IGA would need to include roles, responsibilities, performance metrics and eligibility for grants and public funding. Similar agreements for rail operations exist in Portland and include the Willamette Shore Trolley, Oregon Rail Heritage Center and the Portland Streetcar.

Management of the Washington Park Train by a third-party entity, such as a nonprofit or a public-private partnership, via an IGA with the City of Portland and Metro would shift day-to-day responsibility and financial management away from the Oregon Zoo, which has signaled that the Historic Washington

Park Loop is not a core part of its mission. The operator would manage staffing, scheduling, marketing, maintenance and ridership growth.

A third-party operator would not be burdened by the same layers of public-sector bureaucracy, allowing for faster, more cost-effective implementation of necessary repairs and upgrades. This streamlined decision-making could lead to quicker project turnaround times and better stewardship of public and private funds.

A third-party operator could bring a singular focus and specialized expertise to railway operations including restoring preventive maintenance programs, enhancing the visitor experience and increasing revenue through special events and targeted marketing. Independence from Zoo management would allow the train to be overseen by those dedicated to its long-term success and public value and not just by its profitability within a zoo-centric framework.

Financial Revenue

Documents were shared with the Task Force that showed how comparable railways generate positive net income. The Omaha Zoo Railroad, which features a similar track gauge and includes a vintage 1890 Krauss steam engine that served in WWI, operates profitably under a well-supported maintenance and operations model.

Grant and Donor Support

A nonprofit operator would be eligible for

historic preservation grants, tourism development funds and donations that the Zoo, as a Metro entity, may not be able to access as easily. The Oregon Rail Heritage

Center was able to raise \$5 million for a turntable with grants and individual contributions.

Quoting former City of Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz during the Washington Park Master Plan discussion on March 25, 2018, “One of the most surprising things from my time as Parks Commissioner has been the enthusiasm of rail supporters—and their ability to raise serious money. We should not discount that.” Equally vocal was Former Commissioner Nick Fish, “ ... Commissioner Fritz noted the fundraising energy from the rail community. I think the best example is the Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation. They raised \$4–5 million and overcame enormous logistical hurdles. There’s a lot of enthusiasm for family-friendly rail amenities. I’ve rarely seen such persistent fundraising. I agree with Commissioner Fritz and Dan—this should be scoped into the Transportation Management Plan and not left to uncertain discussions with Metro.” The train is beloved by generations of Portland residents and will be well supported by the community.

Increased Civic Pride

Restoring the train offers a chance to

“Big Vision” ideas developed by the Task Force:

- Extend the train to light rail
- Food Service on the train
- Make train seasonal
- Tram idea – connect Zoo and Washington Park usage without a car
- Partnerships with Rail Heritage group and/or TriMet to provide input and support

reassert Portland’s tradition of civic innovation and pride in public spaces, something the community is eager to rally around again. The railway has been a source of pride for Oregonians since its inception. The train’s value goes well beyond being a fun amusement. It demonstrated the altruistic community spirit of Portland. Portland’s reputation has taken a hit in recent years. Failure to restore the train is just one more thing the city has

lost and cannot manage anymore. A dedicated operator could re-energize public support and community involvement through volunteering, education programs, and historic preservation advocacy—ensuring the train reflects Portland’s identity and values.

Enhanced Visitor Experience and Transportation Options

When the train ran the Historic Washington Park Loop into Washington Park, visitor reviews were overwhelmingly positive, with many calling it a highlight of their trip. The longer route offered a scenic, relaxing ride that felt like a real attraction, not just a short shuttle. The Friends group has seen strong public support for its return; including thousands of petition signatures and consistent feedback that the train, as it operates now, is a disappointment. According to them, a longer, more engaging ride would likely increase ridership, boost satisfaction and give families one more reason to spend time and money at the zoo.

The return of the Historic Washington Park Loop might also help ease

congestion by spreading people out and offering a break from walking, especially

during peak days.

APPENDIX E

Non-Train Scenarios

These options fall outside the scope of the Task Force (Appendix F) but were considered important to note and to consider in case funding becomes available.

Other scenarios include:

- Rose Garden Depot Café (from the 2018 Washington Park Master Plan)
- Regional Trail without the Historic Washington Park Loop (from the 2018 Washington Park Master Plan)
- Train car attraction
- Regional Trail on SW Kingston Road

Rose Garden Depot Café

The Task Force felt that moving forward with a visible feature connected with the Historic Washington Park Loop would keep it in the community's mind, while also making incremental improvements to Washington Park and the future of the train.

A seasonal Depot Café (using the historic Rose Garden Station) was identified in the Washington Park Master Plan (2018) as a Phase 2 project (Solidify the Vision – 5 to 15 years). This project was listed to “prepare and establish the framework for improved circulation and allow for new

amenities to be built in the park.” The Café was selected because it met the following Master Plan Goals:

- Fulfill the potential for Washington Park to become a world class park that's valued for inspirational beauty, areas of respite, recreation, health and vitality.
- Washington Park showcases horticultural excellence and preserves natural area integrity.
- Washington Park cultivates a rich educational, cultural and historic vitality, and embraces the cultural diversity of its visitors and the regional community.

The following information was included in the plan:

With the proposed addition of a regional trail to the train corridor, the train station depot becomes an incredible redevelopment opportunity to add amenities. The train station's perch overlooking the future indoor garden, Rose Garden and city beyond will act as a trailhead overlook and seasonal café. Historically, this point afforded sweeping panoramic views from Mt. St. Helens to Mt. Hood. Since the train depot's development in 1960, the reforested hillside plantings have grown tall, eclipsing most distant views. Selective thinning and pruning of trees directly east of the depot landing will reopen dramatic views to the city and Mt. Hood,

presenting a stunning place to meet after a hike and enjoy the sunset. The depot can be redeveloped to provide a café setting with the focus on outdoor, open and covered seating. A restroom facility will be added.

The total project cost was estimated at \$1,400,000, which includes contingency, management, general requirements, overhead and profit, bonds and insurance, as well as escalation through construction, permitting and project management.

Other information in the Plan included:

- The Rose Festival Foundation was

A rendering of the Station Café from the Washington Park Master Plan.



listed as a potential partnership.

- Conditional Use is likely but should be confirmed by the City of Portland, Bureau of Development Services. Food service and rental space are Conditional Uses in OS zone.

Train car attraction

Task force conversations identified another similar idea to the Station Café that would keep the Historic Washington Park Loop in the forefront of the community's mind in case of a delay in funding/building a larger project. The task force thought of converting a train car to a similar attraction as the Station Café.

There is no information about this idea, so further research would be needed.

Regional Trail without the Historic Washington Park Train Loop

A regional trail between J Gate and the Train Station for pedestrians and bicycles (as either a modified path next to the train corridor or replace the train tracks with a full 12-foot paved path and improve drainage) was identified in the Washington Park Master Plan (2018) as a Phase 1 project (Set the Stage – 1 to 5 years).

The Regional Trail was selected because it met the following Master Plan Goals:

- Fulfill the potential for Washington Park to become a world class park that is valued for inspirational beauty, areas of respite, recreation, health and vitality.
- Washington Park is easy to get to and move through once there.
- Washington Park clearly connects people of all communities to the identified venues and activities.

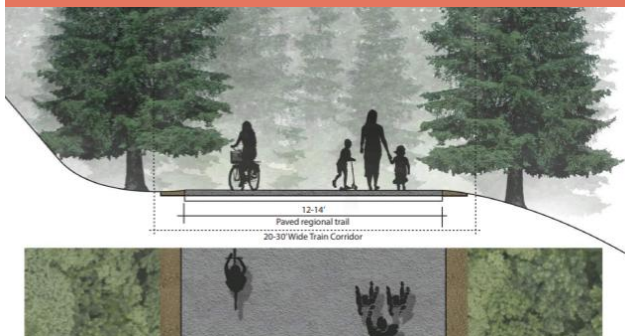
The following information was included in the plan:

Beginning in 1960, park visitors could travel between the Oregon

Zoo and International Rose Test Garden by train. The two-mile round trip took about 35-40 minutes. The corridor has been quiet since September 2013. Unstable conditions and cost to repair the tracks outside of the Oregon Zoo have silenced the clack of the rails, but the corridor offers a unique experience and vantage point in Washington Park. Portland Parks & Recreation is coordinating with Metro to determine how to best utilize the corridor and train station.

A regional trail built within this corridor would improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists in Washington Park. If the Zoo Train remains in operation, a narrower version of the regional trail should be explored. The tracks are never steeper than 4.5%, and a paved regional trail is an opportunity to reconnect the north and south ends of Washington Park.

A rendering of the Regional Trail from the Washington Park Master Plan without train tracks.



The total project cost was estimated at \$10,200,000, which includes contingency, management, general requirements, overhead and profit, bonds and insurance, as well as escalation through

construction, permitting and project management. However, there is a note that this project would be studied as part of the Transportation Management Plan (2020).

Other information in the Plan included:

- Metro and Explore Washington Park were listed as partners.
- This use is allowed by right and assumes that no soil disturbance will take place in the Environmental Zones (c or p).
- Environmental review is likely needed if located all or partially in “c” zone given path’s width and paving, but more specifics on the size, location and materials of project is required to make a determination.

Mixed-use trail on Kingston

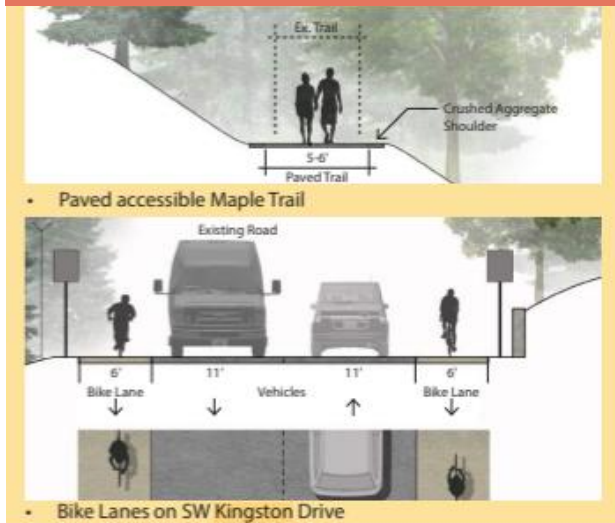
The Task Force raised the idea of having a mixed-use trail on SW Kingston Avenue since it has more gradual inclines which would make it more accessible than the train corridor. The Friends of Washington Park and Zoo Railroad suggested that this trail could be added to the Historic Washington Park Loop, instead of the Regional Trail option listed in the Washington Park Master Plan. A combined train and trail option using SW Kingston Drive was proposed at the review of the Washington Park Master Plan at City Council in 2018 by the adjacent Neighborhood Associations but was not included in the final plan.

According to the Washington Park Master Plan, “Many of the Phase 1 [1-5 years] projects are planning, programming studies, or maintenance projects. These plans and studies are required before

future design projects will be implemented. They address issues of connectivity, inclusivity and serve as opportunities to study the impacts of, or temporarily implement, changes with minor investment.”

- Pave Maple Trail to Regional Trail connection would provide a new separated route (Maple Trail) to bring bikes and pedestrians into the park from SW Canyon Ct. (just east of the Zoo’s J gate) to SW Knights Boulevard/SW Kingston Drive. Enhancement Project – Total project costs are \$532,000 which would be a partnership between Parks and Explore

A rendering of the paved Maple Trail and bike lanes added to SW Kingston Drive.



Washington Park.

- Intersection improvements for safety and wayfinding at SW Kingston Drive/Wildwood Trail – Enhancement/Maintenance Project – Total project costs are \$64,000 and would be a partnership between Parks and Explore Washington Park.
- Trailhead parking and road repair along SW Kingstorn Drive (and decommission non-trailhead parking areas). This project would include closing inadequate parking areas/developing the best parking and view points. It would also repair/repave roadbed and improve drainage to maintain use for shuttles, buses, automobiles, and bikes. Enhancement project with estimated total project costs of \$2,800,000. Partnership between Parks and Explore Washington Park.

Additional changes to SW Kingston Avenue (near the Portland Japanese Garden) are included in the Master Plan including conversion to one-way travel, new accessible and short-term parking and entry improvements which are considered Enhancement project and expected to cost \$904,000 if new parking is on already-paved areas. These projects are included in Phase 2 (5-15 years).

APPENDIX F

Task Force Charter

The purpose of this Charter is to clearly explain what is expected of each Washington Park Train Task Force member and the decision making structure, as well as the meeting process that will be used.

The members agree to work together in good faith toward achieving the purpose and goals, creating the final report, and recommending any next steps items that the Task Force determines.

Purpose

The goal of this Task Force, as described in Metro's FY 2024-25 budget, is to convene stakeholders for conversations centered on the future of the train that used to run through Washington Park. Councilor Christine Lewis sponsored the budget amendment that outlined her vision for the Task Force and the Metro Council voted unanimously in favor of the amendment.

The end product of the Task Force will be a report that: "[C]larifies the cost to bring a whole loop train back to Washington Park; explores the train as a tourist attraction and related revenue generation; and makes recommendations regarding future feasibility and funding scenarios, including the potential for electrification, possible impact to other zoo investments, and various funding sources." This report could be a menu of potential actions, mapping different possible journeys to the extent possible. The report may address cost estimates with the available information. The Task Force will focus on its primary charge to provide a recommendation, based on current data, regarding the future feasibility and funding for a Washington Park train.

Decision Making

This Task Force is co-led by Metro and the City of Portland. The final report will be presented to Metro's chief operating officer (COO), Marissa Madrigal and Portland's City Administrator, Michael Jordan. COO Madrigal will then present the Task Force's findings and her recommendation to the Metro Council. The final report will also be presented to Portland City Council.

The Task Force will meet monthly to ask questions and have discussions utilizing the data currently available to inform Metro staff to develop the final report. The members will be asked to endorse the report going to COO Madrigal and City Administrator Jordan, as well as to the Metro Council and Portland City Council.

Roles and Responsibilities

Task Force members are tasked with the following responsibilities:

- Provide expertise throughout the process.
- Provide recommendations to the project team.
- Serve as liaisons to their organizations or agencies by representing the interests and perspectives of their organizations or agencies and ensure information from the Task Force meetings is provided back internally.
- Attend all meetings.
- Notes may be sent ahead of a meeting if a member cannot attend; these notes will be shared at the meeting.
- Members may designate an alternate at the onset of the study who may attend and participate in deliberations in place of the member.
- Actively participate by contributing to meetings and reviewing materials before meetings.
- Strive to provide recommendations by consensus when possible.
- Consensus is defined as the point where members agree on the most viable option for the entire group, even if it is not each member's personal favorite. If consensus cannot be reached, all opinions will be part of the meeting record.

Meetings

The Group is anticipated to meet monthly, or as needed, from March through July 2025 on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

- Meetings will be scheduled and organized by Metro.
- Meetings will begin and end on time. If agenda items cannot be completed on time, the co-chairs will decide if the meeting should be extended or if an additional meeting should be scheduled.
- Meeting summaries will be prepared and distributed following the meetings.
- Comments on non-agenda items should be provided in writing.

Operating Protocols

As a group, we agree to approach this work with honesty, openness, and willingness to work together. This includes building trust, assuming good intentions in others, and ensuring that

our behavior supports a successful process. We will work with each other and staff to address issues as they arise, utilize tools to ensure clear communication and robust participation, and meet the communication needs of members. This set of operating protocols will help guide our process and will be a living document that we can revisit as needed (with the agreement of a majority of the group).

As we fulfill our charge, we will:

- Keep the needs and concerns of the local community and the larger region at the forefront of the work.
- Keep focused on the objectives of the meetings; note additional topics for discussion.
- In discussions, challenge ideas rather than individuals.
- Approach different opinions with curiosity and seek to understand.
- Keep multi-tasking to a minimum.
- Speak from our own experience, while elevating the voices that are not present or have been historically excluded.
- Be mindful of our participation – ensure a balance in speaking time by allowing others to speak once before we speak twice.
- Be respectful of each other.
- As much as possible, share materials in advance.
- Share differences of opinion on ideas - silence is considered agreement.
- Help create an atmosphere in which differences can be raised, discussed, and melded into group decisions.
- Meeting summaries will be prepared and distributed following the meetings. All opinions will be documented in the summary.

Definitions

Ancillary Costs	Additional funds needed to mitigate the impacts to the road, parking and other infrastructure in Washington Park.
Charge	The direction that the group will take, as determined by the convener.
Collaborate	To work together to achieve a common goal or objective. Collaboration is often employed where multiple parties have authority or control over the outcome and may involve a shared project or policy outcome. Parties

	may share expertise, resources, etc., to accomplish the goal or complete the project.
Capital Investment or Start-up Cost	The cost or funds needed to improve/enhance a train, tracks and/or station; including planning, designing changes, geotechnical reports, rolling stock inventory, modifications or repairs to rolling stock, rebuilding and/or hillside stabilization of tracks, etc.
Electrification	The process of converting a train from being powered by diesel to sole or redundant power through the electric grid.
Funding	The source money to put toward the cost of the improvement/enhancement or maintenance/operation of a train
Historic Register	There are national and local designations of historic places that are considered worthy for preservation. The Washington Park Train is registered as a historic site.
Mentorship	Trade and mentor opportunities through vision, design and construction
Ongoing Cost	The funds needed to continue the operation or maintenance of a train beyond the initial start-up cost, including upkeep of tracks/trains, power/fuel, staff for operations, cleaning, repairs, etc.
Public Purpose	Another way to say this is that there is a public benefit which is provided through government agencies and non-profits for the benefit of the community as a whole, not just a subset of the community.
Protocol	The group agreement for how the group will work.
Proxies	A person or email that is providing the group your vote or input.
Revenue	Funds that would come from operation of a train, including ticket sales.
ROW Preservation	Keep the existing land that is used for travel (and the legal rights and ownerships that go along with the Right of Way)
Schedule	The timeframe or length of time needed to complete a project or program
Historic Washington Park Train Loop	The term that will be used to describe the route which used to extend from the Zoo through Washington Park.
Current Zoo Loop	The existing route that runs within the bounds of the Zoo.

APPENDIX G

Rebuttal from the Friends of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway

Subject: Rebuttal to July 7, 2025 Draft Report on the Historic Washington

Park Loop

To: Metro Zoo Train Task Force

From: Kathy Goeddel, Friends of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway

Date: July 13, 2025

Dear Task Force Members,

We recognize the challenge of integrating diverse viewpoints, but the July 7 draft contains serious omissions, mischaracterizations, and biased framing that must be addressed before the report is finalized. This rebuttal provides fact-based corrections to ensure the report accurately reflects community support, technical feasibility, and the Task Force's full body of work.

1. Public Support Was Omitted or Misrepresented

The report states that 2023 polling did not prioritize train restoration, but fails to mention over 44,000 petition signatures, \$60,000+ in grassroots donations, and consistent community engagement. Letters, testimony from the 2018 City Council hearing, and supportive statements from elected leaders such as Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Saltzman were excluded. This paints a false picture of public disinterest. Most notably, the question put forth to the public had inherent bias built into it. It was the only item listed in the survey with any cost estimate (one much higher than projected by professional geotechnical engineering experts and architects): "Rebuilding the Washington Park train tracks where they have been closed by landslides beyond the Zoo property, estimated at \$10 million plus undetermined future operations and maintenance costs."

2. Geotechnical Risk Was Mischaracterized

The report emphasizes 'geological instability' despite clear findings to the contrary. The Zoo's own 2014 and 2015 GeoDesign reports, as well as the 2021 Shannon & Wilson assessment, all concluded the area is stable and repairs are routine. Omitting these findings misleads readers about safety and feasibility. Property inside the Zoo presents even higher geotechnical risk than the railroad. This was documented in the GeoDesign Reports and a Memo from Bill Burgel, Burgel Rail Group, June 2025.

3. Financial Feasibility Was Undermined

Scenario 2, (\$1.9M revenue, \$400K profit), is labeled speculative with no context about the vetted assumptions behind it. FWPZR submitted detailed models based on historical ridership and expenses provided by the zoo. Only the mix of ridership was altered to reflect years of actual historic rider mix and the staffing of mechanics altered to match benchmarked levels of other zoos. This information was minimized or excluded.

4. Scenario 4: Community-Endorsed Kingston Drive Path

If the report includes Scenario 3—constructing a multi-use path adjacent to the train—then it should also include a fourth scenario that was previously vetted and embraced by the Portland City Council. Both the Arlington Heights and Sylvan Highlands Neighborhood Associations proposed using S.W. Kingston Drive (as a one-way street) for a multi-use path. This alternative is significantly more cost effective and environmentally preferable to Scenario 3 and presents an opportunity for the public with low investment.

5. Scenario Evaluation Was Unbalanced

Scenario 1 (Zoo Loop only) receives favorable treatment despite lower long-term value and higher maintenance risk, while Scenario 2 is presented with skepticism. A balanced report must evaluate all options with equal scrutiny.

6. Electrification Was Framed Negatively for Washington Park

While the Zoo's electrification efforts are celebrated, applying the same approach to the Historic Loop is dismissed as infeasible. In fact, the infrastructure and lessons from the Zoo Loop could be extended to support full-loop electrification. This double standard distorts the climate and technology conversation. I have requested an edit to this section from Paul Lackey of EV Drive so that what we provide is fact based, not opinion. Electrification of the Willamette Shore Trolley at 5.25 miles between Portland and Lake Oswego demonstrates that this is within reach.

7. IGA and Volunteer Models Were Minimized

Successful governance models such as the Willamette Shore Trolley and the Oregon Rail Heritage Center were mentioned only briefly. Likewise, the report focuses on liability concerns with volunteers while ignoring the widespread success of volunteer-supported rail operations in Portland and across the country. Both are critical components of a feasible future model.

8. Transparency and Data Access Were Ignored

The Friends submitted public records requests and repeatedly sought access to historical train financials and Zoo operating data. These efforts are not acknowledged, omitting a major barrier to stakeholder-informed planning and undermining transparency.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The July 7 draft does not reflect the full range of stakeholder input, omits key facts, and frames the restoration effort as impractical despite substantial evidence to the contrary. We respectfully request that these issues be addressed prior to report finalization. Should they not be, the Friends of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway reserve the right to issue a Minority Report or a public response.

We request:

- Reinstatement of public input, technical findings, and financial data
- A balanced tone that considers all scenarios fairly
- Transparency regarding source material and editorial decisions

APPENDIX H

Proposal for an Intergovernmental Agreement for the Restoration of the Washington Park and Zoo Railway

To: Metro Zoo Train Task Force

From: Kathy Goeddel, Friends of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway

Date: July 22, 2025

On behalf of the Friends of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway, I would like to express our strong commitment to advancing the restoration and long-term operation of the Historic Washington Park Loop through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

The Friends believe there is a viable, community-drive approach—modeled on successful IGA partnerships created for the Oregon Rail Heritage Center and the Willamette Shore Trolley.

The Friends have demonstrated significant public and philanthropic support for this effort, including over 44,000 petition signatures, more than \$65,000 in grassroots contributions and endorsements from civic leaders. The Friends are prepared to step forward to initiate this next phase—while working in coordination with Metro and the City of Portland.

We propose to take the lead on the following critical components of this initiative:

- Collaborate on developing the plan for an IGA between the City of Portland, Metro and the Friends of the Washington Park & Zoo Railway;
- Conduct the necessary studies to support informed decision-making, including a business case evaluation, risk analysis, and securing permits;
- Collaborate with the City of Portland, Portland Parks & Recreation, and relevant agencies to navigate City permitting and approval processes;
- Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy and begin securing the resources needed for capital improvements and long-term cooperation;
- Create a phased restoration plan with clear scope, defined responsibilities, and achievable deadlines.

Our intent is to implement this proposal professionally, sustainably, and in close partnership with public agencies and community stakeholders. We are committed to restoring the Washington Park Loop in a way that honors Portland's heritage and enhances visitor experience, connectivity, and accessibility in Washington Park.

We are willing to do the bulk of the work, but to succeed, we will require a commitment of resources from both the City of Portland and Metro, including:

- Designated representatives from each agency to participate in planning and to facilitate access to internal resources;
- A financial analyst from Metro to support cost modeling and analysis of operating and capital scenarios;
- Oregon Zoo Train personnel to provide insight into existing equipment, operations, and maintenance needs;
- Cooperation and resources from Portland Parks to plan for accessibility upgrades and restoration of the Washington Park Station;
- Support from Metro and the Zoo to explore siting and planning for a storage and repair facility;
- Access to historical Zoo Train data, including ridership, revenues, and expenses.

We believe this is the most viable and inspiring path forward—one that can preserve a treasured public asset while building a sustainable model in partnership with Metro, the City, and the community for future generations.