



Bringing Oregonians Together

Leadbetter Railroad Overcrossing



Timeline

November 2008 – February 2009

Region

Portland Metro

Participants

BNSF Railway Company; Capstone Partners; City of Portland; Columbia Sportswear Company; Helser Brothers Transfer Company; Multnomah County; Oregon Department of Transportation; Oregon Metal Slitters, Inc.; Oregon Transfer Company; Port of Portland

Project Lead

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Background

Oregon Consensus mediated an administrative appeal of an Oregon Department of Transportation final order to build a railroad overcrossing at North Leadbetter Road in Portland and close the at-grade crossing. In two full-day mediations, 32 representatives of 11 affected parties reached an agreement that prevented a contested case hearing and allowed the railroad project to proceed.

Results

The diverse stakeholder group agreed to:

- Proceed with construction of the overcrossing
- Preserve the existing at-grade crossing
- Support permitting of a second line track through the at-grade crossing
- Work together to design and allocate costs for safety upgrades at the crossing
- After completion of the second line track and the overcrossing, allow a variance to rules limiting blockage time of public grade crossings. The variance would include provisions for emergency vehicle and road authority access.

In response to an Oregon Consensus survey, participants expressed strong satisfaction with the collaborative agreement process. A majority of respondents noted that:

- All or most key issues were resolved
- The results of the collaborative process better served the interests of participants than non-collaborative approaches might have
- The collaborative process was less expensive, and the level of expenditure was appropriate.

A significant public works project will get started as a result of the agreement reached. This improvement will also benefit existing and future business locating to the area where the dispute was based.”—Participant, Leadbetter Railroad Overcrossing project