



**Speaker Minnis Breaks Ground on Powell Boulevard Improvements
Karen Secured \$5 Million in State Funding for Gresham**

On January 26, Speaker Karen Minnis joined local leaders to break ground on a \$13.6 million project to revitalize downtown Gresham. Speaker Minnis secured \$5 million for the project from the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (passed in 2003) to help fund the improvements to Powell Boulevard. The Act was one of the signature achievements of the 2003 Legislative Session. At \$2.5 billion, it was the largest single investment in Oregon's transportation infrastructure.

"To me, being a facilitator for projects like this is what legislative service is all about and I'm proud to have worked with local leaders in Gresham, and at ODOT, to get this project going," said Speaker Minnis.

"This is an example of the improvements the Oregon Transportation Investment Act is making possible all across the state," the Speaker said. "We're repairing roads and bridges, and we're also helping urban areas. As a fast-growing community, it's important to promote economic develop-

ment in Gresham's core, and keep the downtown a vibrant center where people want to do business."

The \$13.6 million Powell Boulevard project will redesign and reconstruct Powell Boulevard from the west city limits near 174th Avenue to Burnside Road. It is funded by a \$5 million state grant from the Oregon Transportation Investment Act; \$6 million from City transportation impact fees; and \$2.6 million in City capital improvement project funds. Specific improvements that will be made as part of the project include:

It is funded by a \$5 million state grant from the Oregon Transportation Investment Act; \$6 million from City transportation impact fees; and \$2.6 million in City capital improvement project funds. Specific improvements that will be made as part of the project include:

- Adding sidewalks;
- Upgrading and modernizing traffic signals;
- Enhancing accessibility at bus stops and intersections;
- Moving existing overhead utility lines though the downtown underground to enhance urban access and travel; and
- Upgrading utilities, including water, wastewater and storm-water improvements.



L-R: Speaker Minnis, Gresham Mayor Chuck Becker and ODOT Director Matthew Garrett unveil a plaque describing improvements that will be made to Powell Boulevard in Gresham.

Upcoming Interim Committee Meetings at the State Capitol

Senate Task Force on Alternative Fuels: 9 a.m., Mon., February 6, Hearing Rm. 170

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee: 10 a.m., Mon., February 6, Hearing Rm. A

House and Senate Judiciary committees will meet jointly: 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 7, Hearing Rm. F

Process Committee of the Public Commission on the Legislature: 9 a.m., Fri., February 10, Rm. 350

Full Public Commission on the Legislature: 9 a.m., Mon., February 13, Rm. 350

Committee agendas can be accessed on-line at: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/05reg/agenda/webagendas.htm>

*Representative Karen Minnis, Speaker of the House • 900 Court Street NE • Room 269 • Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 986-1200 • Fax: (503) 986-1201*

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