



## Public Affairs Office

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## NEWS RELEASE

Release: May 27, 2010

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### **Wider NE 223<sup>rd</sup> Ave. to reopen with celebration in Fairview**

A community celebration will be held on Wednesday, June 2 from noon to 1:30 pm to mark the reopening of NE 223<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between Bridge Street and NE Sandy Blvd. in the City of Fairview. An \$8 million project that replaced a narrow railroad bridge and widened the road below is nearing completion. The road is scheduled to reopen for the evening commute on June 2. It closed in January 2009 when construction began.

The street celebration will be held on NE 223<sup>rd</sup> Ave. adjacent to Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, at 2420 NE 223<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Event parking is available at the church and on surrounding streets. The celebration will include a light lunch at noon followed by speakers, entertainment by Fairview Elementary students, a ribbon cutting, and a parade of classic cars and public safety vehicles. Speakers include Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel, Fairview Mayor Mike Weatherby, Metro Councilor Rod Park, former Fairview Mayor Roger Vonderharr, Rian Windsheimer from ODOT Region 1 and Cecilia Johnson, director of the county's Department of Community Services. The celebration is sponsored by Rodarte Construction, the project's general contractor.

Before the project, the railroad undercrossing was so narrow that two large vehicles could not pass in opposing lanes. The project widened the road to include two wider traffic lanes, bike lanes/shoulders and sidewalks. Along with recent improvements the county made at the intersection of NE 223<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and Sandy Blvd., the project will improve safety, help meet growing traffic demand, and improve access to developable lands and recreation areas north of Sandy Blvd. such as Blue Lake Park. Project funding was provided by Multnomah County, state and federal contributions.

The road now known as NE 223<sup>rd</sup> Ave. has been an important arterial in East County since 1850. The Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society has created an exhibit on the history of the road, which was originally known as Duck Lane. The free exhibit will be on view at the Heslin House Museum from 11:30 am to 2 pm on June 2, in addition to regular museum hours. The museum is located at 60 Main Street, two blocks south of Smith Memorial Church. A plant sale benefiting the museum will be held at Heslin House the same day.

Multnomah County maintains this section of NE 223<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and more than 300 miles of roads and bridges. For more information, visit [www.co.multnomah.or.us/roads](http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/roads).

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Follow these links to see [before](#) and [after](#) photos of the project.