For Every New Housing Unit Built, Streetcar Gains Another Rider

Since Portland Streetcar began operation 15 years ago, the city has seen significant housing development along the Streetcar Corridor, adding over 17,000 new residential units. In turn, each of these new units has created one new rider for the system.

2015 saw the largest increase in housing development along the Streetcar corridor, with 2,070 new units built in 16 new buildings. Of those new units, 350 were affordable units reserved for low-income Portlanders. Over the next two years, 8,000 more housing units are expected to be built along the current Streetcar alignment – likely adding another 8,000 riders to the system. As ridership continues to increase, Streetcar will add vehicles to accommodate growing demand and expand the system to reach new areas of the city.

For Every New Housing Unit Built, Streetcar Gains Another Rider

Since 2001, over 17,000 new housing units have been built along the Streetcar corridor.

Over time, each new housing unit creates one new Streetcar rider.
Generating Returns for Public Investment

Conversations about the value of streetcar systems often boil down to a tension between transportation and economic development, but the facts on the ground show that Portland Streetcar truly serves both purposes.

In partnership with the City of Portland and TriMet, Portland Streetcar follows a guiding principle that land use, mobility, and economic prosperity goals need to be considered together.

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**Improving Mobility and Access**

- **38% of riders** come from households without a car
- **30 times an hour** Streetcar operators use the mobility ramp to assist passengers with disabilities
- **Less than 5%** of riders are tourists
- **25% of riders** earn less than $20,000 per year

**Generating Economic Opportunity**

- **350 affordable residential units**
  - New affordable residential units in the Streetcar corridor built in 2015
- **2,070 residential units**
  - New residential units in the Streetcar corridor built in 2015
- **$6.6 billion**
  - The market value of new property development in the streetcar corridor since 1998

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“*The Portland Streetcar is one of the most successful and cost-effective economic development drivers anywhere in America in the new millennium.*”

**CONGRESS FOR NEW URBANISM**

“Planners in Portland approached the streetcar as a transportation and a development tool, and they made decisions accordingly.”

**MINETA TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY’S LUCAS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

“Popular Portland Streetcar expected to get more popular.”

**NEXT CITY**