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Josh Thomas, Citizen Information Coordinator, 503-635-0257

For Immediate Release  
March 11, 2005

Contact: Tom Tushner  
503-675-3990

### **UNIQUE RAILWAY ITEMS PLACED ON THE AUCTION BLOCK**

LAKE OSWEGO- If your wish list includes steel rails, creosote-treated timbers, or concrete crossing panels, you're in luck. These surplus railway items and more are slated for online auction and will soon be sold to the highest bidder.

The Willamette Shore Rail Line Consortium has authorized the City of Lake Oswego to sell or scrap excess materials. Any profits resulting from the sales will revert to the Consortium, a group of local jurisdictions and agencies including Metro, the Oregon Department of Transportation, TriMet, the City of Portland, the City of Lake Oswego, and Clackamas County.

Currently up for auction are 26 concrete crossing panels consisting of two pieces that weigh upwards of 2 tons each. Next up are several creosote-treated timbers in varying lengths, sizes and shapes. Also available are over 150 sticks of steel rail in varying sizes, condition, and length. Most are about 30 feet long, weighing approximately 900 pounds each.

While time and effort will be required to load and truck the materials from the site, they may prove a bargain to the right buyer(s). The materials are still in good condition and could sell at a much-reduced rate than they would cost brand new. The rail alone is estimated to have a salvage value worth anywhere between \$3,500 and \$7,000.

A special condition on the sales requires that the purchaser remove the items within 30 days. While this does not necessarily limit the auction to local buyers only, a potential buyer would need specialized equipment to remove the materials to meet the terms of the sale. Viewing the items in person before bidding is encouraged.

It is hoped that the auctions will provide an alternative to salvage, dumping, or giving away the materials, while saving costs of removal and disposal. "We know that there are interested bidders out there and didn't wish to scrap potentially good materials," said Assistant City Engineer Tom Tushner. "Our goal is to get rid of these items in the best manner possible, and we are flexible about how we reach that end."

The City of Lake Oswego is not new to online auctions. In December of 2002, the City began a pilot project to dispose of aging technology equipment via eBay. The program proved a success, allowing the City to recoup a portion of the original equipment purchase costs. Since then, 245 items have sold, returning approximately \$19,500 in taxpayer dollars back to the City treasury.

For more information about the rails, timbers or crossing panels, contact Assistant City Engineer Tom Tushner at 503-675-3990.