

September 1, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today praised the announcement by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that Tri-Met and Oregon Iron Works (OIW)/United Streetcar will receive an additional \$1 million for fiscal year 2010 to continue work on the first U.S. made streetcar in more than 58 years. Clackamas-based Oregon Iron Works Inc., whose subsidiary, United Streetcar LLC, is the only U.S.-based manufacturer of modern streetcars, will use these funds to help complete installation and certification of a U.S. propulsion system which accounts for about 20% of a streetcar's cost thereby bringing their "Made in USA" streetcar to 90% domestic content. These funds will also assist in development of a hybrid wireless streetcar design using the latest advancements in US technology.

These enhancements in technology will help further Portland's credentials as the nation's domestic leader in production and utilization of the modern streetcar. The city already has one of the first modern streetcar systems in America with several lines in use or development.

"This grant will help unlock new aspects of the growing streetcar market for OIW/United Streetcar, creating even more family-wage jobs here in Oregon and helping to revitalize our critical manufacturing sector," DeFazio said. "This is exactly the type of investment the federal government should be making to help grow our economy now and improve our economic viability in the long-term."

In 2005, DeFazio included language in a transportation funding bill called SAFETEA-LU, that directed \$1 million annually to Tri-Met for the purchase and deployment of a domestically manufactured streetcar. That competitive contract was won by OIW in Clackamas. The \$4 million included in SAFETEA-LU and subsequent federal grants have been used by OIW/United Streetcar to construct a prototype streetcar that will be used in Portland and become a model for streetcar projects across the U.S. More than 80 cities currently have plans to build streetcar lines. This industry will create family wage jobs for Oregon workers, and help revitalize the U.S. manufacturing industry across the United States where United Streetcar already has component vendors in over twenty states.

"We are extremely grateful to Congressman DeFazio's vision that allowed a brand new green industry to be created," said Chandra Brown, President of United Streetcar. "The unwavering

support from the Oregon congressional delegation and the administration has been key to the success of the streetcar. These additional funds will allow us to advance our modern streetcar and incorporate the latest in US technology.”

As the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit that will write the next six year surface transportation authorization bill, DeFazio is working to craft a bill that will move our transportation system into the future by promoting alternative transportation and public transit programs like streetcars to help get people out of their cars, improve efficiency, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.