



CASCADE UPDATE

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A great school choice debate

Cascade hosted a luncheon debate on June 2 that focused on the question: Should school choice programs that include religious schools be ruled constitutional in Oregon? More than 125 people heard Charles Hinkle, J.D., former president of the [ACLU of Oregon](#) and a partner at Stoel Rives LLC, debate Clint Bolick, J.D., vice president of the [Institute for Justice](#).

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that school vouchers are constitutional in its June 2002 [Simmons-Harris v. Zelman](#) decision, thereby moving the legal debate to the states. The relevant section of the Oregon Constitution is Article I, Section 5, commonly referred to as the Blaine Amendment, which reads: “No money shall be drawn from the Treasury for the benefit of any religious [sic], or theological institution, nor shall any money be appropriated for the payment of any religious [sic] services in either house of the Legislative Assembly.”

Bolick said in his opening statement, “To me, reading that language answers the question about the constitutionality of the school choice program. Of course it’s constitutional, because this money isn’t for a religious edu-

cational institution, it’s for the benefit of the kids, just like the G.I. Bill, just like Pell Grants. And, that is exactly what the Arizona and Wisconsin Supreme Courts found in interpreting almost identical language.”

Further, Bolick advanced, a school choice program that explicitly excluded religious schools would violate the U.S. Constitution’s equal protection clause. “If the Oregon Supreme Court were to strike down school choice for religious schools under the Blaine Amendment, that decision itself would be unconstitutional under the federal Constitution. The federal Constitution prohibits discrimination in favor of religious institutions, but it also prohibits discrimination against religious institutions.”

The U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering a case that may shed additional light on the constitutionality of school choice programs. Bolick informed attendees, “Washington State provides college aid for students in almost every area, but if you study for the ministry you don’t get that money. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, not known as a conservative bastion, actually struck that down under the First Amendment and the U.S.



Debate moderator Ron Saxton (l) and Clint Bolick (r) listen as Charles Hinkle responds to a question.

Supreme Court has asked to take that issue and resolve it. At the end of the day I’m quite sure that there is no constitutional impediment to school choice in Oregon.”

Charles Hinkle argued the legality of school choice programs is independent of their policy appeal. “The meaning of Article I, Section 5 does not depend on whether it is a good thing or a bad thing to have state support for parochial schools. The

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Smart Growth TOD disappoints

By Michael L. Barton, Ph.D., and John A. Charles, MPA

During the past decade Portland-area planners have extolled Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) as the dominant land use/transportation model. TOD is defined as compact, mixed-use development that concentrates retail, housing and jobs in neighborhoods well served by public transit. Planners hope to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and attract private investment by using the TOD model.

TOD has become so important to local planners that it is now the primary justification for expanding Portland’s light rail system. In the words of former Metro planner John Fregonese, “Light rail is not worth the cost if you’re just looking at transit. It’s a way to increase the density of the community.”

Dozens of TODs have been constructed in the Portland region since 1990. Most have received substantial government subsidies, on the assumption that the public benefits of TODs outweigh the costs. However, little is known about how transit-oriented projects actually perform once built.

“In terms of transit use, Orenco Station has largely proven to be a disappointment.”

Cascade began to fill that knowledge-gap with the recent release of [The Mythical World of Transit-Oriented Development: Light Rail and the Orenco Neighborhood, Hillsboro, Oregon](#), a report we co-wrote. This is the first

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In 2002, for the first time in decades, Washington, DC sent to Oregon more money than it took from us. Before uncorking the champagne, understand this: we're stealing money from people in other states. Even if it comes from a relative we dislike, taking what is not ours is wrong. My sources: *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* and the Eighth Commandment.

State legislative revenue officer Paul Warner noted this federal money should benefit Oregon's economy. He said, "Even if the federal government builds pyramids, it's a positive for the state." Warner's points warrant discussion.

First, tax money is your money. As former ACLU of Oregon president Charles Hinkle said at a Cascade debate (see cover article), "Money belongs to taxpayers, not to the government." Including the high cost of tax collection, our state economy would probably be better off had the money stayed in Oregonians' pockets

in the first place.

Second, We the People create jobs when we save or we spend our money; we don't just stage photo-ops. Businesses create thousands of jobs daily by purchasing new equipment or hiring people.

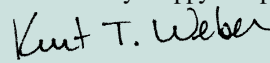
What public servants do is take our money and bestow favors upon the politically well organized, such as construction unions, to the invisible detriment of those who aren't, like florists. George Orwell, born 100 years ago on June 25, highlighted such favoritism in *Animal Farm*. Such largess often serves as a soft bribe, or reward, for strong voting blocs.

Warner's hopefully figurative statement about building pyramids helps illustrate a key point about government programs and projects. If pharaohs didn't have forced slave labor, the pyramids wouldn't have been built.

Stated differently, most government projects could be—should be—funded and built voluntarily by private investors, foundation grants, and

the like. A free people will do what is necessary, and more; they do not need to be forced by pharaohs or politicians. For example, private funds are underwriting the Chief Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota; when completed, it'll dwarf Mt. Rushmore. Project founder and sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski believed if people accepted the goals of Crazy Horse Memorial they would support it privately.

We the People can and do build monuments and create real jobs—privately, voluntarily. Good ideas do not require government force or slaves to be fulfilled. When politicians take our money, there is less money for private medical research, for entrepreneurs to fund their ideas and create jobs, for charities to help the needy, for groceries. People freely deciding how to live their lives without government interference—that's diversity, that's liberty. Happy Independence Day.



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New academic advisors named

Ayse Evrensel, Ph.D., and Michael L. Barton, Ph.D., joined Cascade's panel of Academic Advisors in May. "We are honored to have Drs. Barton and Evrensel on-board. They provide Cascade with great knowledge and expertise," states Cascade vice president Kurt T. Weber. Academic advisors assist the Institute by peer reviewing studies prior to publication, writing reports and commentaries, and public speaking.



Ayse Y. Evrensel, Ph.D.

Polytechnic, and a doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University.

A Cascade research associate since 2002, Barton recently co-authored *The Mythical World of Transit-Oriented Development: Light Rail and the Orenco Neighborhood* with Cascade environmental policy director John A. Charles. Barton has several Cascade commentaries to his credit, and is presently at work on a policy paper on the arts, and a report on another Portland-area transit-oriented development.

Barton asserts, "A free society is built by

people who are left alone to pursue their individual values. The result cannot be improved by thieves, cutthroats or government planners."

Ayse Y. Evrensel, a native of Turkey, is a visiting assistant professor of economics at Portland State University. She received a doctorate in economic and social geography from the University of Zurich (Switzerland) and a doctorate in economics from Clemson University. She has taught at Clemson, Ball State University and the University of California-San Diego.

"I am an unabashed proponent of liberty having seen the governmental causes of poverty in Turkey and my first hand experience with warring factions while in college there," says Evrensel. "I am motivated to educate others about how free markets, property rights and limited government are the cornerstones of liberty, peace and prosperity."

Evrensel's current research focus is international financial institutions and their program effectiveness in developing countries. She has authored commentaries for Cascade, spoken before community organizations and lectured at student seminars organized by the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University.



Michael L. Barton, Ph.D.

Horning's Hideout: Private park, public fun

By Joseph Coon

In 1958 Richard and Jane Horning purchased 120 acres of land in North Plains, Oregon to make a home and raise a family. Because the land was ill suited for raising cattle or farming, Mr. Horning dreamed of transforming his property into a private park and running it during his retirement.

Richard Horning never got that chance as his life was cut short when he died of leukemia in 1983. His son Bob Horning, having just finished his Air Force enlistment, moved back home to help out the family. Bob and his mother Jane decided to fulfill the dream by creating Horning's Hideout, a private recreation area. Horning's Hideout has been privately owned and operated by the family for 20 years.

Horning's Hideout offers a variety of outdoor activities. There is a lake stocked with trout, and fishing poles and bait are provided for a fee. There are paddleboats, play structures for children, open fields, covered pavilions for barbecuing, and an outdoor amphitheater that is often the site for summer concerts.

The success of Horning's Hideout and other private places like it can be attributed to the popularity of outdoor recreation in America, which has grown over the years into a substantial business. U.S. Census Bureau data reveal that \$2.1 billion was spent on outdoor recreation in Oregon in 2001, and U.S. residents spent \$108 billion nationally pursuing recre-



Horning's Hideout, a private park 35 minutes west of Portland, offers a variety of outdoor activities, including camping, paddleboats and fishing.

ational activities. The rising demand for recreation creates financial incentives for more landowners to provide access to their property.

Overuse of public facilities is helping to fuel the attractiveness of private alternatives. Governments operate municipal, state and federal parks across the country that provide below-cost recreation, with taxpayers subsidizing the remainder of the actual operating costs. Because there is little or no out-of-pocket cost to actual users, government parks are often crowded. Terry L. Anderson, Ph.D., and Donald R. Leal observe in their book *Free Market Environmentalism*, "a growing number of recreationists are finding that the quality of their recreational experience is decreasing and they are turning to the private sector."

Outdoor enthusiasts have other private options available to them in Oregon. For ex-

ample, Wilderness Unlimited, in conjunction with private landowners, oversees 150,000 acres across the state. Wilderness Unlimited members can thus enjoy greater angling, camping, hiking and hunting opportunities.

After visiting Horning's Hideout De Lise Palumbo said the park "is run by personnel who make you feel like a guest, not a mere park user." Bob Horning explains, "Because customers deal directly with the land owner we are able to give a personal touch to their experience."

"We take great pride in being good stewards of the land," Horning says and improvements are a regular occurrence. Currently the Hornings are working to enhance streams by placing logs and brush in the water to improve fish habitat. They closely monitor the fish stock in the lake and its water level, and plant new timber throughout the park. The family has a personal and a financial interest in making sure their customers enjoy the park and return.

As Horning's Hideout, Wilderness Unlimited, and other such enterprises demonstrate, a relationship between private landowner and outdoor enthusiast can benefit both parties, as well as the environment and wildlife. And it's worth paying for.

Joseph Coon is a research intern at Cascade Policy Institute and a junior majoring in economics at Portland State University. For more information about Horning's Hideout call (503) 647-2920 or visit www.horningshideout.com.

Are public schools hazardous to public education?

Education debates in Oregon often focus on the secondary issue of financial resources and ignore the primary question: Is the current school system the best one possible? As part of Cascade's work to provoke discussion about primary questions, it hosted an April 15 luncheon for Andrew J. Coulson, author of *Market Education: The Unknown History*. His presentation was titled: "Are Public Schools Hazardous to Public Education?"

Coulson began, "When I talk about the ideals of public education I'm talking about things like the fact that we expect all kids to have access to good schools regardless of their family income or background. And that we think schools should prepare kids not just for success in private life, though that's of course very important, but also to participate in public life."

He continued, "Once we realize that we in fact all agree on these ultimate ends of what public education should be doing, it makes



Andrew Coulson (l) discusses school choice with *Portland Tribune* columnist Promise King.

it a lot easier to talk about the way we organize our schools. We can see them as just a tool."

Coulson emphasized that we should first determine if our students are doing well, then we should ask whether the current educational system is the most effective. After adjusting for

"I found that it's particularly beneficial if some schools are operated for profit..."

– Andrew J. Coulson
Author, *Market Education*

demographics, Coulson noted, studies show Oregon students do about as well as the national average, but they do not fare well when compared internationally. Regardless, comparing our school system to other states or other

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constitutionality of voucher programs, like everything else, depends on the meaning of that section and the framers' intent. That is the theory of the Oregon Supreme Court, which has held time and again over the last century that in interpreting a provision of the Oregon Constitution we look to the framers' intent."

"At the end of the day I'm quite sure that there is no constitutional impediment to school choice in Oregon."

– Clint Bolick, J.D.
Vice president, Institute for Justice

According to Hinkle, Oregon's founders erected a particularly strong barrier between church and state. "Oregon took the same preamble [from Indiana's Constitution] and eliminated the reference to 'God' and they did the same thing in the very first section of the constitution." Thus, he noted, the framer's clear desire to separate church and state demonstrates that using taxpayer funds to pay for religious school tuition is unconstitutional.

Hinkle argued, "When taxpayer money goes to parochial schools to pay for the teachers, and the books, and the classrooms for those parochial schools a religious insti-

tution is being benefited. That's what the Oregon Supreme Court held in 1961. And it's as true today as it was then."

When Bolick asked if a program identical to the federal G.I. Bill would be unconstitutional in Oregon Hinkle answered, "Well there are programs and there are programs. I don't know exactly how the GI bill operates in particular. ... If the G.I. Bill would mean Oregonians would use taxpayer money at a parochial school, I think the answer is 'yes, that is unconstitutional'."

In response, Bolick appealed to the audience, "Some of you may pay tuition at a religious school and others of you may shop at grocery stores. When you draw money for either of those places are you drawing money from your bank account for the benefit of the school and the gro-



Clint Bolick, J.D., (l) author of *Voucher Wars*, shares a laugh with Challenge Foundation advisor Cheryl Reinstadler (r) after Cascade's school choice debate. Joining them are Mark Siegel and Greg Ott from the Delphian School.

cery store? No, you're drawing money for the benefit of the child in one instance and your family in the other. The notion that money being 'drawn from the Treasury' in this kind of instance of school choice is for the benefit of the school distorts the plain meaning of those terms."

"Money belongs to taxpayers, not to the government."

– Charles Hinkle, J.D.
Former president, ACLU of Oregon

Bolick asked Hinkle his view on the Oregon constitutionality of tax credits. (With education vouchers, money is taken from taxpayers then given to parents; with tax credits, money never actually goes to the government.) Hinkle responded, "Money belongs to taxpayers, not to the government. As a practical matter the IRS and the whole tax code treats credits differently than overt subsidies."

Rob Kremer, founder of the Oregon Education Coalition and recent candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, further probed Hinkle's position about the constitutionality of tax credits during the audience question and answer period. Hinkle answered succinctly, "In my opinion [tax credits] are not unconstitutional because no money is being drawn from the public treasury."

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developed countries tells us little about the best way to educate students because most school systems are also government run; that is, we're comparing one monopolistic system to another.

Coulson advocated a historical comparison to see what types of systems work well across cultures and time periods, which he did before writing *Market Education*. After looking at about a dozen school systems across 2,000 years Coulson identified clear patterns. He determined that good school systems meet the following criteria:

- They are driven entirely by the choices and initiative of parents.
- Parents pay some or all of the cost of their children's education directly to the school, not through some form of taxation.
- Schools must compete for the opportunity to teach students, children don't just come on a conveyor belt based on a bureaucrat's decision. Students have to be attracted to a school based on what the schools offer and what parents want their kids to learn.

• Schools have to be unfettered. Massive blankets of legislation or regulation dictating what must be taught renders parental choice meaningless, because mandated cookie-cutter schools can't be innovative.

"Just because something has the word 'public' in its name does not mean it is the best way to satisfy our social goals for education. There is more to education than the word 'public'."

– Andrew J. Coulson

Finally, Coulson emphasized, "I found that it's particularly beneficial if some schools are operated for profit, which is par-

ticularly unappealing to most people today. I'd love to be able to say we can just toss this last one out since it has little chance of gaining widespread support, at least right now, but we can't simply do that."

With regard to parents paying for education Coulson states, "The biggest boost to your student's achievement and the efficiency of the school you're sending your child to comes when you make that first contribution." He points out, "The evidence shows that holding everything else constant, competition has a big positive effect on efficiency and quality. ... [S]chools that are funded by parents and have to compete for students are much more responsive to the demands of parents."

Tuition tax credits are one option that incorporate or foster many of the criteria of a good school system. Coulson suggests that states enact two forms of tuition tax credits. First, businesses or individuals should get tax cred-

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Awards for student essays on terrorism and liberty

Cascade's ninth annual Independence Essay Competition for Oregon high school students concluded in May. Entries were submitted by students across the state, from Joseph to Klamath Falls to Banks; three winners were selected by the independent panel of judges.

This year the competition invited students to consider the threats to domestic liberty posed by the "War on Terrorism." Cascade vice president Kurt T. Weber commented, "People should not assume that government action is inherently good. The award recipients showed an understanding of the harm from government violations of individual liberty in the name of security."

The three essay winners attend both public and private schools. Sarah Rehnberg, a senior at Portland Christian High School, won \$500 for her essay about the possible dangers of government efforts to curtail terrorism threats. "Freedom of speech and protection from unwanted governmental intrusion are liberties threatened to be violated with the



Sarah Rehnberg

current War on Terror," wrote Rehnberg.

Aaron Leetch, a senior from Rex Putnam High School in Milwaukie, was one of two entrants to win \$250. Leetch chronicled government's growth during other times of crisis and wrote prior to the U.S. attack on Iraq, "With war once again looming, today's American government is embarking on another round of power-seizing and public manipulation."

The second \$250 prize was earned by Maya Waldron, a senior at Enterprise High School. She offered an overview of government usurpation of civil liberties from the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1789 until the present day. "[T]he government's attempt to create security is doing the exact opposite by making us more vulnerable in our homes, less able to speak our minds, and more fear-



Aaron Leetch



Maya Waldron

ful than we have ever been."

All competition entrants are introduced to organizations that advance liberty at the national and international level. These organizations include the Institute for Humane Studies, Laissez Faire Books and the Foundation for Economic Education.

The award recipients were selected by: Garrett Epps, J.D., University of Oregon Law School; Ayse Y. Evrensel, Ph.D., Department of Economics, Portland State University; Leslie Spencer, former Associate Editor, *Forbes*; and Zenon X. Zygmunt, Ph.D., Division of Business and Economics, Western Oregon University. Sponsors of the competition include the Bonavia Family Charitable Trust, Constructive Management Foundation, Friesen Lumber Company, and Centerpoint Graphics, Inc.

All Oregon high school students are eligible to enter the Independence Essay Competition. Guidelines for the 10th annual competition will be posted this fall at www.cascadepolicy.org/essay.asp. Students who would like to receive the guidelines can write essay@cascadepolicy.org or call (503) 242-0900.



President of the Hume Foundation Gisele Huff (r) poses with radio talk show host Lars Larson and his wife Tina after a March 21 Cascade dinner. Mrs. Huff spoke on "Surviving Nazi-occupied France: One Woman's Personal Account."



Marge Hart and Cascade vice president Kurt T. Weber enjoy a moment after his health care talk for the King City-Tigard Republican Women.

Education . . .

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its when they contribute to private scholarship programs that help low-income families send their children to private schools. Cascade Policy Institute facilitates such a program, the [Children's Scholarship Fund-Portland](#). Second, there should be a tax credit that provides parents a one-to-one dollar reduction in taxes to offset private school tuition or homeschooling expenses.

A few states have enacted versions of these policies. For example, Pennsylvania and Ari-

zona offer tax credits for donations to private scholarship organizations. Unfortunately, both programs have flaws that stifle their potential benefit. Pennsylvania's tax credit is capped at \$20 million statewide per year; this sum is too low to create an education market when funds are dispersed across the entire state. Because of how it is written, Arizona's policy does not significantly benefit low-income families that need financial assistance.

Coulson reminded school choice advocates, "What you need for a school choice system to work is real competition, real parental financial responsibility, freedom for schools, and the other factors I listed earlier."

Coulson asked those who support the current government-run system to remember, "Just because something has the word 'public' in its name does not mean it is the best way to satisfy our social goals for education. There is more to education than the word 'public'."

"The evidence shows that holding everything else constant, competition has a big positive effect on efficiency and quality. . . . [S]chools that are funded by parents and have to compete for students are much more responsive to the demands of parents."

— Andrew J. Coulson

Andrew J. Coulson's [Market Education: The Unknown History](#) is available at most bookstores. His research is available at www.schoolchoices.org.

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in a series of case studies that will analyze the effectiveness of government mandated high-density, mixed-use developments near light rail lines. Our analysis of Orenco Station, one of the best-known TODs in the country, shows that high-density mandates are strongly opposed by nearby residents, difficult to finance, and fail to generate significant transit ridership.

“Because light rail is not used by most nearby residents, development around the Orenco/231st station stop has dramatically increased local traffic.”

A bit of history first. During the 1980s the City of Hillsboro created an urban renewal district in the Orenco neighborhood to consolidate land ownership and promote economic development. After Hillsboro obtained title to most land parcels, land was sold to Intel and PacTrust. Intel invested more than \$2 billion to construct the Ronler Acres campus about one mile north of what became the Orenco rail station. PacTrust, a development firm, began planning a high-density, mixed-use project nearby, based on TOD principles and their associated zoning mandates.

Simultaneously TriMet and Hillsboro imposed extensive planning restrictions on the area and mandated high densities near the proposed rail station; the density requirements were strongly opposed by many residents. PacTrust partnered with Costa Pacific Homes and others to build a mixed-use town center along Cornell Road (about 500 yards north of light rail), with various residential projects that included single-family homes, apartments, condominiums,

townhouses and live/work row houses. Westside light rail opened in September 1998.

In our research for *Mythical World*, we looked at development patterns near light rail, and then transit use to see if the alleged public benefits of TOD are being realized. Based on the evidence, it is apparent that light rail is not a catalyst for development.

Most of the earliest construction took place adjacent to Cornell Road, while the land immediately surrounding the rail stop remained vacant. Within the past year West Hills Development has started to develop land south of light rail, but large parcels on the north side lie fallow. (Ironically, government zoning actually impedes land development north of the rail station due to high density mandates that are not financially feasible.)

“Based on the evidence, it is apparent that light rail is not a catalyst for development.”

In terms of transit use, Orenco Station has largely proven to be a disappointment. Most people who take the train from the Orenco/231st stop arrive there by car and take advantage of the free Park-n-Ride lot.

Three large employers, Intel, Sitel and Norm Thompson, provide free shuttles for their employees to get to and from the light-rail station. This inflates light rail ridership, but adds to local traffic—shuttles circulate for hours, often times empty—thereby diminishing the alleged environmental benefits of rail. This also amounts to a private subsidy of light rail.

Because light rail is not used by most nearby residents, development around the Orenco/231st station stop has dramatically increased local traffic. By the time West Hills completes its south-side project, more than 12,000 additional daily auto trips will be added to the local road system as a result of Transit-Oriented Development.

TOD advocates generally maintain that light rail is vital to the commercial success of nearby development. In fact, the various PacTrust projects, including Orenco Station’s town center, the residential neighborhoods, and a nearby shopping center, have

all come to fruition largely because they are auto-oriented and located on a five-lane arterial (Cornell Road).

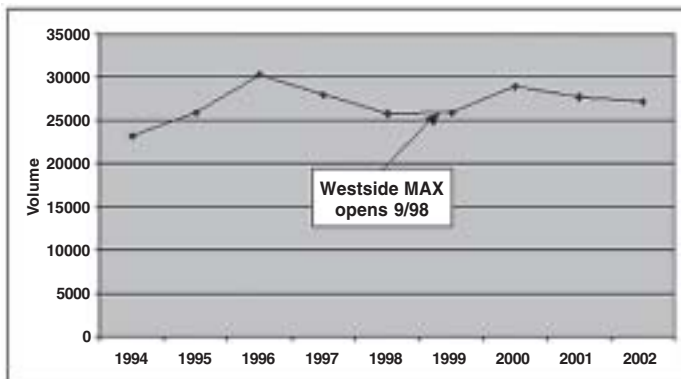
Of all the public policies that have affected development in the Orenco neighborhood since 1980, the construction of light rail is one of the least important. Other, more instrumental catalysts to development were: Hillsboro’s creation of an urban renewal district to consolidate land ownership; Intel’s decision to locate a facility there, which created a critical mass of highly paid workers who could support up-scale residential development nearby; and local road system upgrades, which made previously land-locked parcels available for commercial development.

“There is no evidence that Transit-Oriented Development near Orenco Station lessens traffic or improves air quality, and many local residents do not think high density development improves their quality of life.”

One should question the value of endeavors that require taxpayer subsidies to “succeed.” Thus, a red flag is raised for TODs because taxpayers have subsidized most of the development projects near the Orenco/231st station. The rail extension cost taxpayers more than \$190 million; a \$500,000 federal government Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant paid for part of the TriMet Park-n-Ride; Hillsboro provided over \$1 million from its Traffic Impact Fund for infrastructure investments; and Metro spent nearly a quarter million dollars to pay TOD consultant Peter Calthorpe to do design sketches for Westside light rail stations, including Orenco.

There is no evidence that Transit-Oriented Development near Orenco Station lessens traffic or improves air quality. Moreover, light rail did not significantly jump-start development there. Yet TriMet planners continue to cite development as a primary reason for building three additional light rail lines. Such is the mythical world in which they live.

Michael L. Barton, Ph.D. is an academic advisor to Cascade Policy Institute, and John A. Charles, MPA is Cascade’s environmental policy director.



Traffic volume on Cornell Road at Orenco Station (231st Street) before and after light rail.

To declare independence

By Kurt Weber

Thomas Jefferson contributed greatly to the cause of liberty and a limited constitutional government in these United States, and his ideas deserve study throughout the year. However, there is special cause to reflect upon them as Independence Day draws near. On July 4, 1776 the 2nd Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, which was written principally by Jefferson.

The third president of these United States, Jefferson stated he was no friend of “an energetic government.” The functions of the federal government were to be severely limited. It should be a “rigorously frugal and simple” government, one “which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned.”

“Were we directed from Washington when to sow, and when to reap, we should soon want bread.”

—Jefferson

In his first annual Message to Congress, Jefferson stated, there was “reasonable ground of confidence that we may now safely dispense with all the internal taxes....” He gloated over keeping taxation low. In his second Inaugural Address, he said, “it may be the pleasure and pride of an American to ask, what farmer, what mechanic, what laborer, ever sees a tax-gatherer of the United States?”

Jefferson knew that governments had the “general tendency to multiply offices and dependencies, and to increase expense to the ultimate term of burden which the citizen [could] bear.” Thus, he believed, taxes should be cut at every possible chance, lest “government shall itself consume the residue of what it was instituted to guard.”

Jefferson believed in minimal taxation because it would also keep us from engaging in military adventurism. He maintained, “sound principles will not justify our taxing the industry of our fellow citizens to accumulate treasure for wars to happen we know not when, and which might not perhaps happen but from the temptations offered by that treasure.” Jefferson had little use for an adventurist foreign policy. He advocated “free commerce with all nations; political connections with none; and little or no dip-

lomatic establishment. And I am not for linking ourselves by new treatise with the quarrels of Europe; entering that field of slaughter to preserve their balance, or joining in the confederacy of Kings to war against the principles of liberty.”

The father of the University of Virginia knew well that tricks other than direct taxation could be employed to balloon government unnecessarily—specifically, federal borrowing. Jefferson felt so strongly that he desired “a single Amendment to our Constitution” to prohibit it. This Amendment would be the sole force necessary “for the reduction of our government to the genuine principles of our Constitution...” A national bank, or federal reserve system, according to Jefferson, did not fall within the “genuine principles of our Constitution.” In a letter to President Washington,



“I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.”

—Jefferson

he put forth that a national bank would open “a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible of any definition.”

The principles of limited government were strongly embraced by Jefferson because he religiously felt that Americans were capable of solving their problems – individually and collectively. In a letter to M. Dupont de Nemours, comparing the United States’ government to that of the French, Jefferson declared, we “both consider the people as our children, and love them with parental affection. But you love them as

infants whom you are afraid to trust without nurses; and I as adults whom I freely leave to self-government.”

Self-government was extremely important to Jefferson. “What has destroyed liberty and the rights of man in every government which has ever existed under the sun?” asked Jefferson, but the “generalizing and concentrating [of] all cares and powers into one body...” To him, “the inconveniences attending too much liberty” were preferable to “those attending too small a degree of it.”

“There are rights which it is useless to surrender to the government, and which governments have yet always been found to invade. These are the rights of thinking, and publishing our thoughts by speaking or writing; the right of free commerce; the right of personal freedom.”

—Jefferson

Incorporated into Jefferson’s self-government ideals was that free markets were necessary to protect liberty and foster prosperity. Jefferson warned, “Were we directed from Washington when to sow, and when to reap, we should soon want bread.” Freedom to trade leads to general prosperity, but it is also the foundation of personal liberty, the right to follow one’s own conscience, which Jefferson forcefully defended.

In 1789 Jefferson wrote, “There are rights which it is useless to surrender to the government, and which governments have yet always been found to invade. These are the rights of thinking, and publishing our thoughts by speaking or writing; the right of free commerce; the right of personal freedom.” In a September 23, 1800 letter to Dr. Benjamin Rush he penned, “I have sworn upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.” These immortal words are carved into the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC.

Take time this Independence Day to reflect upon the principles of a man who greatly influenced the founding of this country. Remember the sacrifices made to set this nation’s course towards freedom, and the vigilance necessary to further realize Thomas Jefferson’s vision of a free and prosperous people.

June 23 – Steve Buckstein will discuss privatizing Social Security at a Benton County Republican Women luncheon in Corvallis.

August 2-8 – Cato University Summer Seminar. Join distinguished libertarian speakers for six days of economics, philosophy, history, law, and fun in San Diego.

August 7 – John A. Charles speaks about light rail at the Greater Clark County Rotary luncheon in Vancouver, Washington.

August 10 – Annual Lazy Fair picnic at Blue Lake Park in Gresham. Co-sponsors include the Executive Club and Taxpayers Association of Oregon.

Publications

- **The Mythical World of Transit-Oriented Development: Light Rail and the Orenco Neighborhood Hillsboro, Oregon**, John A. Charles, MPA, and Michael L. Barton, Ph.D., Policy Insight No. 124, April.
- **The Field of Economic Dreams**, Matt Roehr, CFA, and Kurt T. Weber, Cascade Commentary (CC) 2003-16, May.
- **Can we afford TriMet?**, Michael L. Barton, Ph.D., CC 2003-15, May.
- **Chile's unemployment insurance model**, William B. Conerly, Ph.D., CC 2003-14, May.
- **Risks of a Multnomah County Income Tax**, Steve Buckstein, CC 2003-13, April.
- **No accountability: Portland's Mini PERS**, Matt Roehr, CFA, CC 2003-12, April.
- **A sober critique of the beer tax**, Joseph Coon, CC 2003-11, April.
- **Don't reward TriMet's dysfunction**, John A. Charles, MPA, and Michael L. Barton, Ph.D., CC 2003-10, April.
- **Connect school funding to those who benefit**, Nick Weller, CC 2003-09, April.

Publications and event details are online at www.cascadepolicy.org, or call (503) 242-0900.

by Joseph Coon

More than 371 Oregonians are waiting to receive an organ transplant. They've been on the waiting list from under a month to over five years. For many, a transplant would be a lifesaver.

Unfortunately, in 2003 more than 6,000 Americans across the country will die waiting for an organ transplant. That means 17 people will have passed away before this day is over. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing more than 81,000 people are now on waiting lists as the need for organs exceeds the supply.

Currently less than two of ten adults are organ donors. To help increase that number, Lifesharers was created in May 2002. LifeSharers is a non-profit organization whose mission is "to end the shortage of donated human organs and tissue for transplant."

Of the organs available for transplant, only 20 percent go to those who are also organ donors. LifeSharers executive director David Undis notes, "So when an organ becomes available, there is more than an 80 percent chance that it will go to someone who is not an organ donor." Undis rhetorically asks, "Why bother to donate if your organs will probably go to someone who won't donate their organs to you?"

To create a greater incentive to become a donor, LifeSharers is building a network of people who pledge to give their organs when

they die and agree that fellow LifeSharers members will have priority in receiving those organs. If no members are suitable for a given organ, the organ will be made available to non-members.

Thus, by joining LifeSharers you increase the chance that an organ will be available for you should you need it. The LifeSharers system rewards those who become members, which provides an incentive for others to become members. As more people join, the pool of available organs will grow, which benefits members and, ultimately, non-members alike.

Since LifeSharers founding one year ago, membership has grown an average of 45 percent every month. Today, the organization boasts nearly 800 members. Membership is free, anyone can join, and signing up can be done on-line at www.lifesharers.com.

LifeSharers is a private, voluntary and growing remedy to the organ shortage problem. As Undis states, "We can save thousands of lives every year by applying the Golden Rule to the world of organ donation." And, he points out, by joining LifeSharers "the next life you save may be your own."

Joseph Coon is a research intern at Cascade Policy Institute. For more information about the LifeSharers organization and how to become a member visit www.lifesharers.com or call (615) 356-3918.



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