

# Plans for relocating 3 historic locomotives get Portland council's OK

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The Portland City Council today approved agreements that will allow the [Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation](#) to move ahead with plans for a new facility housing three historic steam locomotives.



The agreements include approval of a loan of as much as \$1 million to help the foundation buy land near the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

The foundation hopes to build a new roundhouse under the new McLoughlin Boulevard viaduct.

The three locomotives, owned by the city, date to 1905, 1938 and 1941. They have lived since 1974 in a roundhouse in Southeast Portland's [Brooklyn Yard](#), where the two newer engines were restored to operability. (Restoration of the oldest is still under way.) But Union Pacific, which owns the roundhouse, wants the locomotives moved so it can use the space for modern railroading.

"Given its proximity to the main north-south rail line, I don't know that there would be a better site in the city," says Kim Knox, a planning consultant with the Shiels Oblatz Johnsen firm.

Rail backers had once hoped for a site near Union Station, but that never worked out. Knox says the site near OMSI would allow for a railroad interpretative center that would be easily accessible by the public. The target for completing a new roundhouse: 2012.

-- Fred Leeson, special to The Oregonian