A Mobile Network of Food Pantries for Portland-Metro

Team: C.An | Members: Colin O’Neill + An Nguyen

MAXFresh! by TRIMET

How MAXFresh! Works

Adaptive Reuse: MAX Cars Type II

Food Pantry Storage

Distributor Locker

Storage Shelves

Buffer zone to increase social distance

Client-only entry

QR code scanner

Two-way locker cabinets

Volunteer/employee entry

Storage shelves

Donated goods are inventoried, organized and stored in pantry-adapted Type II cars

Clients who use the MAXFresh! phone app can get notified of food availability and reserve their share

Code scanners at distribution lockers provide pick-up and drop-off convenience for MAX train passengers

MAXFresh! grocery box will be ready on 08/26/2020 to be picked up at Gresham TC lockers.

MAX Fresh! works

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MAX Fresh! works – a network of mobile food pantry MAX Fresh! is also designed with adaptability for future need. The locations of storage hubs and distribution centers can change or be expanded depending on the needs of a neighborhood. Beyond food security, repurposed cars can serve a number of organizations to deliver books, clothing, and home goods to those in need. MAX Fresh! can also partner with food banks to provide drop off and pick up locations for remote orders.

Though conceived with the conditions of sheltering-in-place, MAX Fresh! is also designed with adaptability for future need. The locations of storage hubs and distribution centers can change or be expanded depending on the needs of a neighborhood. Beyond food security, repurposed cars can serve a number of organizations to deliver books, clothing, and home goods to those in need. MAX Fresh! can also partner with food banks to provide drop off and pick up locations for remote orders.

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With these challenges in mind, our team proposes MAX Fresh!, a network of mobile food pantry lockers and pick-up stations to address community need in the Portland-Metro area. In this proposal, retired MAX cars are repurposed as storage, food pantry and distribution centers. Type II cars have been transformed into distribution lockers and can be positioned at key stations, while in number of spots, underused MAX cars will be converted into storage hubs to house a number of items, including bulk foods, canned, dried, and frozen goods. Farmers markets and community partners like local food banks and charities will distribute items to the stations, and in turn have access to a large stock of food that will reduce the risk of costs and transportation, making it safer for both employees and volunteers.

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As observed in the past few months, under shelter-in-place order for Covid-19, food insecurity is one of the biggest challenges facing individuals and families, in some case of a black or brown family living in poverty. Although school closures have mandated school lunch and breakfast, many are left to choose between eating or paying the rent. For those who can gain access to food, they can be exposed to the threat of the virus.

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