After nearly four years of community planning, construction has begun on improvements to NW 3rd and 4th avenues between Burnside and Glisan Streets. The $5.35 million project is a partnership between the Portland Development Commission (PDC) and the Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) to achieve goals laid out in the Old Town/Chinatown Development Plan.

The improvements are designed to strengthen the identity of this historic district, foster cultural and economic diversity, and promote a vibrant pedestrian environment for commercial, retail and residential uses. This public investment into the neighborhood will foster new private investment and redevelopment in a historically depressed neighborhood.

The improvements will include new streets, concrete sidewalks with granite paver accents, new flowering Asian trees and installation of streetlights throughout the area, two “Festival Streets” on NW Davis and Flanders streets and large granite planters with public art. In addition, over 120 flowering trees and 16 palms of Asian species will replace 43 aging trees.

Since fall 2001, when PDC, PDOT and the neighborhood embarked on a community planning process, there has been extensive interest by small businesses and property owners in rehabilitating buildings in Old Town/Chinatown. PDC’s Storefront Improvement Program, for example, has resulted in more than 50 rehabilitations including new facades, building lighting and signage. New construction on NW 4th Avenue and new night clubs and restaurants have opened and continue to attract tourists and residents alike. To invite and encourage private investment for these smaller businesses and property owners, PDC has the following programs available:

- **Storefront Improvement Program** allows property owners to apply for grants of up to $20,000 to assist with storefront rehabilitation projects.
- **The Business Finance and Seismic Loan Programs** offer a variety of loans to Portland companies and property owners looking to upgrade buildings or locate in the neighborhood.
- **The Development Opportunity Services** program helps fund 80 percent of pre-development studies.

A full description of the NW 3rd and 4th Avenues project plan, including renderings, is available at [www.pdc.us/ura/dtwf/otctstreetscape.asp](http://www.pdc.us/ura/dtwf/otctstreetscape.asp). Funding for the improvements is made possible through tax increment proceeds from the Downtown Waterfront Urban Renewal Area. Construction is approximately 18 months with a grand opening slated for fall 2006. For more information, contact Ellen Vanderslice, PDOT, at 503-823-4638 or David Davies, PDC, at 503-823-0409.