



Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219 (503) 823-4592

May 26, 2011

Mayor Sam Adams
City of Portland
1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 340
Portland, OR 97204

RE: 2014-2015 Regional Flexible Funds, Barbur Streetscape Project

- Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc (SWNI) formally recommends and supports the allocation of \$2.25 to \$2.5 million from Portland's share of the 2014-2015 Regional Flexible Funds (RFF) for Active Transportation for the Barbur Boulevard Streetscape Plan – Phase 1 (SW 19th Ave. to SW 26th Ave.). The Barbur Streetscape Plan, adopted by City Council in 1999, is now more than a decade old. It is more than past time that what was considered the highest priority "Demonstration Segment" of the Barbur Streetscape Plan be funded and implemented.

As initially conceived, the Demonstration Segment proposed several new sidewalks, two crosswalks at Spring Garden, consolidated driveways, realigned intersections and one street vacation. The "Demonstration Project, east half" remains a high priority and needs to extend from SW Moss to SW 26th. Some sidewalks were recently constructed in this section of Barbur using 2009 ARRA Stimulus Funds. An updated design for this segment needs to incorporate current stormwater requirements and management practices, and property owners will need to be consulted about proposed designs that may affect driveways and access to SW Barbur.

This project meets the Metro RFF criteria for Active Transportation projects because it:

- Improves access to and from priority destinations, including three elementary schools (one public, two parochial), two full service grocery stores (Safeway and Fred Meyer), one park (Custer) and several restaurants and services;
- Improves safety in this designated high crash corridor;
- Serves underserved communities in the many high-density residential units nearby,
- Removes conflicts with freight by consolidating driveways;
- Completes the "last mile" on this designated major city bikeway and walkway (three significant gaps in the bike lane and several gaps in the sidewalk);
- Increases the use of walking, biking and transit ridership in this designated frequent transit service/high capacity transit corridor;

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- Leverages private funds being spent for the Safeway reconstruction at SW Barbur and SW Capitol Hill Road and the Burlingame Fred Meyer store remodel at SW Barbur and SW Custer; and
- Leverages public funds committed by the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services for the Multnomah Boulevard sewer reconstruction and by the Portland Bureau of Transportation for the sidewalk improvements on the north side of SW Multnomah Boulevard beginning at SW Barbur/SW 22nd.

We need improvements that will accommodate the increasing pedestrian and bicycle traffic on this section of SW Barbur Boulevard, and provide a significant link to neighborhoods east and south of the I-5 barrier to the many destinations mentioned above.

These improvements would encourage more people to use this active transportation route in the years ahead. The final design of the improvements could be considered in the context of the Barbur Concept Plan and SW Corridor High Capacity Transit Plan that are already underway.

Sincerely,



Brian Russell
SWNI President

cc: Tom Miller, PBOT
Rian Windsheimer, ODOT
Ted Leybold, Metro