



## Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

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

October 20, 2011

Bob Sherman.  
ODOT Flexible Funds Program  
Planning Section  
555 13th St. NE, Suite 2  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Barbur Boulevard Safety Improvements: Crossings and Sidewalk Gaps

Dear Mr. Sherman:

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. offers its strong support for the "Barbur Boulevard Safety Improvements" project proposed for funding under ODOT's Flexible Funds Program.

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. is a coalition of seventeen neighborhood associations in SW Portland. The proposed crosswalks and sidewalk improvements are badly needed in our community. SW Barbur Blvd. is a major thoroughfare and the area where the improvements are proposed has a major bus route, a Safeway store, several restaurants, and other shops and services that people need to walk to safely. These improvements were identified as a priority project in the 1999 Barbur Streetscape Plan and have yet to be funded or constructed. A recent High Crash Corridor factsheet noted that approximately 50% of the Barbur Corridor lacks sidewalks on both sides of the street, and the average distance between pedestrian crossing improvements is 1/3 mile. This is the case in the proposed project area and the crossings and sidewalks will encourage more people to walk to important destinations in the neighborhood.

We applaud the City of Portland's commitment to improving the pedestrian infrastructure in frequent transit service corridors such as SW Barbur and SE Division. We urge ODOT to fund the "Barbur Boulevard Safety Improvements: Crossings and Sidewalk Gaps."

Thank you for your consideration of this very important project to our community.

Sincerely,

Marianne Fitzgerald  
President  
Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

cc: April Bertelson, Portland Bureau of Transportation