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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE:

Commissioner Novick announces funding for critical safety improvements on outer NE Halsey

(October 26, 2016)—This morning, City Council approved the Portland Bureau of Transportation’s (PBOT) proposal to fund a safety improvement project on NE Halsey from NE 114th to NE 162nd. Statistically, NE Halsey is one of the most dangerous high crash corridors in the City. In the past 10 years, 478 crashes have been reported on NE Halsey between 122nd and 162nd; 19 of which were fatalities or near-death injuries.

Currently, a person crossing Halsey on foot would have to cross nine lanes of traffic: four general travel lanes, two parking lanes, two bike lanes and a center turn lane. The safety improvements include sidewalk infill, protected bike lanes, four rapid flashing beacons, and upgraded pedestrian crossings. Half of the project will be funded through system development charges—fees that developers pay to offset the cost of new development—the other \$1 million will be provided through today’s council action.

The project will bring the community a step closer to achieving [Vision Zero](#), and will fulfill a long history of need for improvements in the area; outer Halsey was identified as a high priority for [East Portland in Motion](#) (EPIM) and the [East Portland Action Plan](#) (EPAP). At a recent PBOT town hall in east Portland, one of the loudest concerns heard from community members was the need to address safety on outer NE Halsey.

“Over the past several years, I’ve heard from community members that this is a priority project for the area,” said Commissioner Novick. “I am thrilled that we have found the funding to respond to the need and am happy to report that City Council supports our vision for safe streets throughout the city.

“The funding for this project is thanks to the tireless advocacy of our friends at EPAP and EPIM. It’s because of them that we were finally able to make this project happen.”