

A Joint Letter from the
Bicycle Advisory Committee & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
1120 SW 5th Avenue Room 800, Portland OR 97204

August 24, 2016

Metro Council
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97232

The City of Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Bicycle Advisory Committee consist of a wide cross-section of Portlanders who come together to advise City decision makers on matters related to their particular transportation mode. Members come from every area of the City as well as a broad spectrum of interests and professional backgrounds. Each modal committee has been an ongoing contributor and advisor during the City's Regional Flexible Fund selection process.

Each committee has reviewed the projects and feels that all of the projects, both collectively and individually, are strong candidates that would bring needed investment to geographic areas where it has long been lacking. Therefore as modal Chairs, we would like to express the support of our committees for the City of Portland applications for Metro's Regional Flexible Funds for the following active transportation projects:

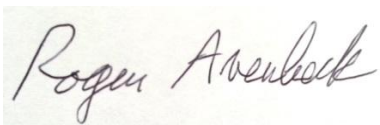
- Brentwood-Darlington Safe Routes to School - Sidewalk Infill & Neighborhood Greenway: Provides Brentwood-Darlington, an underserved neighborhood that relies on active transportation, walking and bicycle facilities. The project will improve safety in a high-crash area and removes conflicts between modes to improve access to and from priority destinations.
- Connected Cully, Phase 2 - NE 72nd Ave Pedestrian/Bicycle Parkway: Provides the Cully neighborhood low-stress walking and bicycling facilities. Traditionally a lower socioeconomic neighborhood with high concentration of low-income Hispanic residents, the project will improve a high-crash area, provide access to and from priority destinations (i.e. schools, parks and economic centers) and ultimately is supported by the community through stakeholder engagement.
- David Douglas Safe Routes to School - Sidewalk Infill on 117th, 130th, and Mill: Provides David Douglas High School and the surrounding neighborhoods a safe route for students to get to school. The David Douglas School District is one of the most diverse communities within the Portland Metropolitan Region yet it is deficient in active transportation facilities. This project will close sidewalk gaps, create safe bicycle facilities and most importantly has strong support from the residents, David Douglas High School and political representatives in the area.
- Hillsdale Town Center Pedestrian Connections: Sidewalk Infill on SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy: Provides the Hillsdale Town Center with pedestrian facilities between nearby Robert Grey Middle School, Mary Rieke Elementary and Wilson High School. This project has strong community support and will improve access to an underserved community with many children and seniors adjacent to a High Crash Corridor.

- Jade & Montavilla Connected Centers Project: Provides multi-modal improvements in key areas to the up and coming Jade District and Montavilla Neighborhood Centers. These improvements will promote safety along a high crash corridor, address climate change and health through the creation of a walkable and bikeable network and serve diverse communities of color.
- NE Halsey Safety & Access to Transit: Provide solutions to problems in this High Crash Network. Using the suite of tools, which include signal improvements, intersection redesigns, pedestrian improvements and bicycle facilities, this project will alleviate deficiencies in the transportation network and better connect the growing population to the developing economic centers in this area.
- N. Portland Greenway Trail: Baltimore Woods Segment: Provides a better active transportation connection between nature, places of interest, job corridors and other priority locations. This project will add bicycle lanes, sidewalks, off-street pathways and other improvements to create a high quality network of alternative options for the St. Johns neighborhood.
- Outer Stark and Outer Halsey Complete Streets Project Development: Provide safety improvements to a High Crash Network that affects all modes. This project will add bicycle and pedestrian facilities for an area that is highly dependent on single occupancy vehicles thereby giving the residents greater choice in their transportation options and modes. These updates will also serve a diverse community that is low-income and has a high percent of immigrant/refugee or identify as people of color.

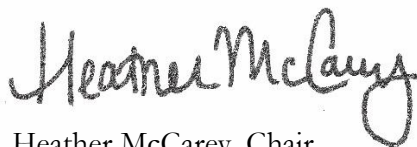
Each of these projects are region-wide investments that make our communities more livable and give people choices in how they travel. Each of these projects score high on the prioritization criteria by serving underrepresented populations that are in projected high growth areas in the Portland Metro region, improving safety in high crash corridors, and providing access to priority destinations.

These projects achieve multiple transportation policy objectives for both a bicycling and walking perspective and support Metro’s efforts to address air quality requirements by ensuring the region reduces its reliance on fossil fuel consumption and single occupancy trips. Each of these projects provides significant transportation benefits to the Portland Metropolitan Region in helping to ensure that our transportation system is strong, diverse and efficient.

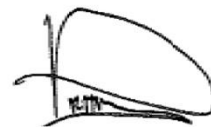
Respectfully submitted on behalf of Portland’s Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Bicycle Advisory Committee,



Roger Averbeck, Co-Chair
Pedestrian Advisory Committee



Heather McCarey, Chair
Bicycle Advisory Committee



Rithy Khut, Vice-Chair
Bicycle Advisory Committee

Please note: PAC members Rebecca Hamilton, Co-Chair and Anthony Buczek, as Metro employees, recused themselves from participating in all discussions related to the RFF project selection and related issues.

cc: Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT)