

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2007

Contact – Elly Blue 503 810 9443 (eleanor.blue@gmail.com)

bikeportland.org/wearealltraffic

“We Are ALL Traffic”

Concerned citizens make public appeal for action and change.

***Press Conference & Community Rally
seeking justice, equality, and respect for ALL road users.***

Portland, OR – Spurred on by the recent string of traffic collisions resulting in cyclists' deaths and injuries, and alarmed by the response and reactions by some elements of law enforcement, the media and the public at large in the wake of these tragedies, *we are a group of concerned citizens making an appeal for a commitment by all levels of government and law enforcement, by the media, and by all citizens to come together and work for a positive change in our communities and on our streets.* Both events are community actions; neither event is sponsored by any existing organization.

Friday, November 16: Press Conference

When: Friday, November 16, 2007, 12:30 p.m.

Where: City Hall (1221 SW 4th Ave. Portland, OR)

Who: The speakers will voice shared concerns and make an appeal for action and positive change with all levels of government, law enforcement, media and all users of the road.

Friday's press conference will be facilitated by Jonathan Maus, editor of BikePortland.org. Speakers will represent a range of perspectives in the bicycle community and beyond. *See below for speaker profiles and quotes.*

Saturday, November 17: Community Rally for Justice, Equality, and Respect for All Users of the Road.

When: Saturday, November 17, 2007, start at 12:00 noon

* Processions to the rally will leave from sites of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and injuries around the city starting at 11am. bikeportland.org/wearealltraffic

Where: Waterfront Park – Salmon Street Springs Fountain (between Hawthorne and Morrison Bridges)

Who: Thousands of cyclists and other concerned citizens are expected to attend.

Family members of recent traffic crash victims and members of the community will speak about their experiences on the roads and with the justice system, and urge positive change. Speakers include Siobhan Doyle, victim of the most recent “right hook” incident at N Interstate and Greeley.

All participants will be asked to make a strong commitment to make our streets safer for all road users, and for everyone – whether driving or riding - to share the road in a responsible, safe and courteous manner.

Featured speaker Joe Kurmaskie says “Respect for a community means protecting its most vulnerable. It means the whole community coming together with solutions, not dividing and pitting ourselves against each other. We respect our fellow Portlanders enough to demand transportation equality for all: more road improvements, funding, education and enforcement.”

Bob Mionske, a Portland-based lawyer, former Olympian, and author of the new book *Bicycling and the Law*, will speak up on Friday about the need for cyclists and other vulnerable road users to become aware of their rights, and the inspiring history of social change brought about by cyclists: "...a social bias against cyclists lies at the root of cyclist harassment. ... It is up to all of us, as cyclists, to speak up for justice when bias against cyclists, operating under color of authority, violates the rights of another cyclist. "

Scott Bricker of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, will speak on the topic of equality, and urge all citizens to speak up for social, policy, and legislative changes that will serve all road users, especially the most vulnerable: "In Oregon over 600 people are killed every year in traffic crashes, and every single fatality is utterly unacceptable. We are calling for institutional change to take this number toward zero."

Saturday's rally has evolved out of a growing community sense of frustration, grief, and injustice, and a desire to effect positive changes. Rally organizer Elly Blue says, *"This rally is being organized by people in the bike community – but it's about everyone's right to be treated with equality, justice and respect when they're moving around the city, and everyone's responsibility to treat each other with respect."*

For complete details about the press conference, ghost bike processions, and rally, please visit bikeportland.org/wearealltraffic

###