



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Traffic Control Devices Committee
Department of Transportation
Traffic-Roadway Section
355 Capitol Street NE, 5th Floor
Salem, OR 97301-3871
503-986-3568
FAX 503-986-4063

W. Scott Wainwright, P.E., PTOE
Highway Engineer, MUTCD Team
Federal Highway Administration
Office of Transportation Operations, HOTO-1
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., E84-477
Washington, DC 20590

May 13, 2008

RE: Bike Box and Colored Bike Lanes Experiment Request
Portland, Oregon, Department of Transportation

Dear Mr. Wainwright:

The Oregon Traffic Control Devices Committee (OTCDC), an official advisory committee to the Oregon Department of Transportation, voted unanimously at its meeting on May 9, 2008 to support the City of Portland, Oregon's request to use Bicycle Boxes and Colored Bike Lanes as FHWA approved experimental traffic markings. The Oregon Department of Transportation therefore supports approval of that experimental designation as well.

Traffic control for bicyclists has received very little attention from the traffic engineering profession in the United States. Research, analysis and guidance on the best treatments for improving bicycling conditions and safety is sorely needed. By approving PDOT's bike box and colored bike lane study FHWA will be helping to fill in one of the many missing gaps in bicycle traffic research.

Portland is the right community to experiment with bike boxes. City leadership has made a strong commitment to bicycling and the significantly increased cycling mode splits. And although the same City leadership forced PDOT to move forward with the bike boxes prior to receiving FHWA experimental designation, PDOT transportation professionals have a solid commitment to understanding the operational and safety parameters of bicycling. By applying traffic engineering research methodology and analysis to this long ignored mode, they can begin to answer the questions about operations and safety and make the results available to a national audience of transportation professionals.

By this letter the Oregon Traffic Control Devices Committee and the Oregon Department of Transportation urges FHWA to grant experimental designation to the City of Portland's Bike Box and Colored Bike Lanes.
Sincerely

Sincerely

Cynthia Schmitt, PE
Traffic Engineer, Marion County Oregon
Chair, Oregon Traffic Control Devices Committee

Edward L. Fischer, PE
ODOT State Traffic Engineer
Secretary,
Oregon Traffic Control Devices Committee

c: Sheila Lyons, ODOT
Rob Burchfield, PDOT
Jason Tell, ODOT