



Southwest Neighborhood Information

7688 S.W. Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219 (503) 823-4592

November 1, 1993

Earl Blumenauer
Commissioner
City of Portland
City Hall
1220 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Felicia Trader, Director
Office of Transportation
City of Portland
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Pedestrian Program
Capital Improvement
Process

Southwest Portland has many narrow winding roads which serve as arterials through our neighborhoods. Many of these roads lack pedestrian pathways or even shoulders wide enough to walk along. It is unlikely that pedestrian improvements will occur without city funding due to the high costs and diversity of ownership. It is imperative that we begin to look more closely at the areas identified as the top priorities by our SWNI Transportation Committee for inclusion in the next round of funding for pedestrian improvements.

The citizens of Southwest Portland submitted several projects to the City's Capital Improvement Process (CIP). The four projects proposed for inclusion in the 1994-95 and 1995-96 CIP are:

- S.W. Capitol Highway/49th, from PCC to Barbur
- S.W. Capitol Highway, Multnomah to Hillsdale
- S.W. Capitol Highway, Barbur to Multnomah
- Hillsdale Pedestrian District

The SWNI Transportation Committee cited pedestrian and bicyclist improvements to the entire length of S.W. Capitol Highway as our highest priority project. For convenience, we broke it up into three segments: PCC to Barbur, Barbur to Multnomah, and Multnomah to Hillsdale. In addition, the Hillsdale Vision Group (with the support of the SWNI Transportation Committee) has requested pedestrian improvements in the Hillsdale Pedestrian District.

The S.W. Capitol Highway PCC to Barbur segment has some of the highest density residential units, as well as an elementary

Arnold Creek • Ashcreek • Bridlemile-Robert Gray • Collins View
Corbett-Terwilliger-Lair Hill • Crestwood • Far Southwest • Hayhurst • Homestead • Markham
Maplewood • Marshall Park • Multnomah • South Burlingame • West Portland Park • Wilson

school, a community college, three business districts, a library, and a mosque located on this street, and other schools and churches located nearby. It has very few sidewalk segments, and pedestrians have worn mud paths along much of the street. Luckily, it has curbs. Many residents who currently drive to the local destinations would walk if the route were made safer for pedestrians.

The Hillsdale Pedestrian District was built in the 1950's and has several deficiencies in its pedestrian facilities. Sidewalk improvements and safer pedestrian crossings would make it a much friendlier place for people to shop and utilize as a community center. Many neighborhood businesses, two schools and a library are located here. The local residents and business owners are very motivated and eager to transform this area from an auto-dominated environment to a pedestrian, bicycle and transit-friendly environment.

The Barbur to Multnomah segment, the Multnomah Pedestrian District, and the Multnomah to Hillsdale segments are also high priorities for Southwest Portland. High speeds, narrow roadways, poor sight distance, and lack of virtually any sidewalks in these three segments make this a very hazardous place for pedestrians. Yet the community centers, neighborhood businesses, churches, schools and parks are very desirable places for the citizens to walk to.

We urge you to consider these improvements to Southwest Portland as you consider the funds available for pedestrian improvements in the coming fiscal year. They will help get people out of their single-occupant vehicles, bring the citizens closer to their neighbors, and make the area a more livable community.

If you have any questions on any of these projects, please give me a call at the SWNI office at 823-4592.

Sincerely,



Marianne E. Fitzgerald, Chair
SWNI Transportation Committee

/mef

cc: Kay Durtschi, SWNI President
Bill Hoffman, City of Portland