

April 18, 2023

Senator Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Sanchez, Co-Chair
Senator Girod, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Gomberg, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Smith, Co-Vice Chair

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for Safety Improvements on Inner Southeast Powell Boulevard

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, Co-Vice Chair Girod, Co-Vice Chair Gomberg,
Co-Vice Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

We request support for the safety improvements to the inner portion of SE Powell Boulevard described in the Oregon Department of Transportation's presentation dated April 12, 2023. Inner SE Powell Boulevard is an urban section of Highway 26 that runs through our districts and serves as an important connector for our communities, schools, and local businesses.

However, inner SE Powell Boulevard is dangerous. In just the last seven months, three people have died on the road. In the last four years, inner SE Powell Boulevard (between SE 7th Ave and I-205) has seen 1,200 traffic incidents resulting in severe and minor injuries, property damage, and numerous fatalities.

This danger is real, and it is harming our communities. Last October, after the tragic death of Sarah Pliner on SE Powell Boulevard in front of Cleveland High School, we convened a workgroup of community stakeholders, teachers, parents, businesses, and agencies to discuss solutions.

After months of work, we heard from the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Portland Bureau of Transportation about recommendations to make inner SE Powell Boulevard safer and the cost of those recommendations.

The Oregon Department of Transportation estimates it would cost approximately \$115 - 185 million to upgrade inner SE Powell Boulevard to a "state of good repair." There are also immediate safety changes that could address key safety needs, which would cost

approximately \$15 - 30 million. Please see the attached document with a detailed breakdown of the safety changes needed and the associated costs.

We respectfully request the funding necessary to complete these safety improvements, which will ensure that our communities can live near and use SE Powell Boulevard safely.

Thank you for your leadership, partnership, and consideration of our request.



Senator Kathleen Taylor
Senate District 21



Representative Mark Gamba
House District 41



Senator Michael Dembrow
Senate District 23



Representative Rob Nosse
House District 42



Senator Kayse Jama
Senate District 24



Representative Khanh Pham
House District 46



Representative Hoa Nguyen
House District 48