

April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018



## 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Improvement Coalition

To: Mayor Ted Wheeler, PBOT Director Leah Treat, ODOT Director Matt Garrett, ODOT Region 1 Manager Rian Windsheimer

We are writing regarding 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue for the following purposes:

- 1) Have Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), in partnership with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), determine minimum practical resources necessary to facilitate jurisdictional transfer of ownership of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the City of Portland.
- 2) Support the letter signed by various Elected Representatives on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 advocating for a transformational project for 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that supports jurisdictional transfer.
- 3) Development of an integrated plan for 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue that includes upgrades to vehicle and pedestrian infrastructures, as well as affordable housing and local business development.

82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is owned and maintained by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The lack of investment in this critical urban arterial has led 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to become one of the most dangerous streets, both for pedestrians and motorists. It is this level of disinvestment that has led various Elected Representatives to sign a letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) demanding an increased level of funding to upgrade the infrastructure of this important roadway and will also “support a jurisdictional transfer of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the City of Portland.” We strongly support this transfer and we request that PBOT determine minimum resources necessary to facilitate jurisdictional transfer of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

The community has directly expressed a vision for 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue that is easy to access, safe to cross, and provides a ‘sense of place.’ ODOT treats 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue as a place to move through, while the community desires 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to be a place to meet friends, enjoy restaurants – a place that is part of the local fabric. These community perspectives are supported in several recent studies (Imagine 82<sup>nd</sup>, 2008; Jade Visioning Project, 2014; East 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Corridor, 2016).

Recently, ODOT completed a two-year study of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to identify projects that would “build towards community goals.” The findings in that study do not support community goals. Infrequent and

unsafe crossings without pedestrian control are placed in high volume traffic areas. Sidewalks remain curb-tight and narrow. The entire boulevard is treated uniformly without any allowance for unique and distinct neighborhoods.

In the City of Portland's 2020 Comprehensive Plan, the City directs 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to be carved into several neighborhood nodes. We ask that the City begin developing an integrated plan for 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue that improves the infrastructure of the roadway and promotes development of affordable housing and local business development. The City's desire to create neighborhood nodes speaks to the need for transfer ownership of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the City of Portland. Development of those nodes will not be possible with ODOT limited ability to bring 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue up to community standards.

The community wishes to exercise self-determination in the transformation of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; self-determinations starts with transfer of ownership of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the City of Portland.

We look forward to your response to this letter and working with you.

Sincerely,

82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Improvement Coalition

Cc:

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer

Sen. Michael Dembrow

Rep. Barbara Smith Warner

Rep. Jeff Reardon

Sen. Rod Monroe

Metro Councilor Bob Stacey

City of Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman

City of Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz

City of Portland Commissioner Nick Fish

City of Portland Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson

Leah Treat, Portland Bureau of Transportation

April Bertelson, Portland Bureau of Transportation

Radcliffe Decaney, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

Todd Struble, Jade District

Frank Harris, 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Business Association

Kem Marks, East Portland Action Plan

Lore Wintergreen, East Portland Neighborhood Office

Terry Dublinski-Milton, Southeast Uplift

Doug Fasching, Central Northeast Neighbors