



05.08.2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair McKeown, and Members of the Joint Transportation Committee,

The 82nd Avenue Improvement Coalition is a grass-roots community group advocating for a safe roadway in our community. We are urging you to support HB 2846, the Safe Community Highways Act.

We are here today because there are few options available to address safety and maintenance concerns of our local highways. This legislation solves the problem of individual communities legislating for control and ownership of state-owned roads that are not prioritized for maintenance and are neglected.

We have worked since 2013 with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to discover options to return our street to good condition and add basic safety features. In 2015, we started working with ODOT on the 82nd Avenue Implementation Plan. This plan worked to determine near-term solutions for our road using current highway design standards. This study was completed in January 2018.

82nd Avenue is a challenging street; hosting up to 30,000 vehicle trips a day, along with the busiest mass transit line in the region, with frequent driveways serving businesses along 7 miles. The vehicular traffic is high volume and high speed. Pedestrian crossings that actively stop traffic can be ¼ to ½ mile apart.

Even though pedestrians are 75% more likely to be hit while crossing 82nd Avenue at uncontrolled intersections, this ODOT funded study did not offer any additional safe pedestrian crossings. Just recently on February 24, 2019, a Madison High School student was struck by a car on 82nd Avenue and was critically injured.

This is a cautionary tale for all communities in Oregon. We have turned to our local elected officials and worked closely with ODOT. We now come to you for support. We need a better process for addressing safety and maintenance concerns of neglected local highways. We ask that you support us and other communities throughout Oregon.

Examples of unsafe, neglected highways can be found throughout Oregon. The answer is giving communities control of their roads. Passing Safe Community Highways for All Oregonians will allow communities throughout Oregon to assume control of candidate highways through jurisdictional transfer.

Therefore, we support HB 2846, and we encourage this committee to pass it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brian Wong

82nd Avenue Improvement Coalition