

**From:** [joho@johovey.com](mailto:joho@johovey.com)  
**To:** [JCT Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2846 - Relating to transferring jurisdiction of highways; prescribing an effective date.  
**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 9:02:17 AM

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

My name is Joe Hovey, and I am a member of the Inner Powell Alliance, based in Portland. As a group made up of volunteers from various neighborhoods that interact with Highway 26 / Southeast Powell Blvd., Inner Powell Alliance urges you to support HB 2846 - "The Safe Community Highways Act". Essentially, HB 2846 will allow communities throughout Oregon to assume control of candidate highways through jurisdictional transfer. Most importantly, it will allow these local communities to effectively prioritize the needed safety and maintenance these highways require. In addition, HB 2846 calls for the establishment of The Oregon Highway Jurisdictional Transfer Fund for the purpose of paying the costs to upgrade and to transfer candidate highways.

On a personal level, our group, Inner Powell Alliance, is focused on Highway 26 / Southeast Powell Blvd. While SE Powell Blvd. is a technically a State highway, it is very much a city street in Portland. It is not a top priority for maintenance nor safety by ODOT. In fact, it is part of the "High Crash Network" for people who drive, walk or dare to bike along it. A number of neighborhoods interact with SE Powell, as it runs East to West through Portland. It is one of the major conduits in the City for people who live in the adjacent communities to get to work, school, shopping, etc. Yet, SE Powell Blvd. suffers from a lack of adequate safe pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, traffic signals and bike lanes, along with the frustrating potholes and speeding vehicles.

Portland, under its 2035 Comprehensive Plan, has designated SE Powell Blvd. to be a Civic Corridor as well as a Major Walkway. Therefore, it is understood that this corridor will only continue to develop and grow over the next few years in terms of both residential and commercial uses. For example, there are already plans to develop Affordable Housing on the South side directly on Inner Powell, with 200+ units for families. Unfortunately, there is no safe access to the North side of Powell in close proximity to the Housing development. By transferring this corridor from ODOT to PBOT, we would work to have more pedestrian crossings as well as improved bus shelters and traffic signals.

For Oregon as a State, these type of highways play an integral part in the success of the communities that surround them. They serve as a major means of connecting neighborhoods and their residents to their schools and work. By passing HB 2846, it would solve the problem of individual communities legislating for jurisdictional transfer on their own.

In closing, Inner Powell Alliance asks for your support in passing HB 2846, allowing communities on the local level to decide how these dangerous and neglected corridors should be maintained and designed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important piece of legislation.

Regards,

Joe Hovey  
Inner Powell Alliance