

Public Input for Happy Valley Transportation Meeting

This is an update letter I sent today on behalf of updating my neighbors about the work being done on Roethe Rd between McLoughlin and Oatfield Rd. It gives history and a recent timeline of improvement fostered by Nicole Perry at the Street Trust through Safe Routes to Schools program. She is going to apply for a grant on our behalf and much more needs to be advocated for upgrading. We need funding for paving the street, improved sidewalks (not handicap travelable), bike lanes, crosswalk touch lights, proper turn lane markings onto northbound McLoughlin, and street lines.

I'm submitting this as my input to the legislature as work attempted by citizens to get action on a very neglected school zone and commute road.

I sent the letter to neighbors and copied it to Christian Snuffing and Nicole Perry.

Thank you,
Joyce Johnson

Hi All, We received this email Thursday and this is the first opportunity to forward to all of you. We received horribly late notice on our ability for input on the notice below.

If you can respond to the email on the meeting announcement below by 5:00 TODAY that would be great!

Here is history and an update for our efforts for Roethe improvements for the school zone and traffic.

It's been a busy summer and we have been working with the county Traffic Engineers and many others to get our neglected school zone and traffic controls updated on Roethe. The county is still only giving us maintenance money for improvements. They say there is not money for crosswalk touch lights that are much needed!

We are working with Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) for further improvements, but are told more goals will have to wait several years, stuck in "process". A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that takes 5 years to come to fruition, has never been planned or applied for by the county, since Jim Bong started his work (in 2014) with the county to address student safety and Roethe traffic control issues. They kept telling him it was a priority and they were looking for funding, but never informed him of the CIP that would be needed in order to secure the funds to actually make a difference. In 2017 (action took 3 years!) crosswalk signs were put up. The sidewalks, pavement, handicapped accesses, lane markings (including for bikes) and lights for crosswalks are still needed! This "school zone" has existed since 1963, never fully developed and neglected by the county. There have been CIP improvements all over the county that are connected to new development allocations and Roethe has been horribly neglected. We are tired of it!

We have been working on the current improvements for one year now. The new signs and the reduced speed will hopefully be helpful, but we have very little enforcement! Signs for school access should really help visitors and the community know where the school is! With the Jennings detour, the traffic is like a freeway. We are looking forward to Jennings improvement completion, now that school is underway. Our road is super unsafe for all of the students and community pedestrians!

We will go to another Clackamas County Commissioners meeting in October. They only happen on Thursdays at 10:00 AM for public comment participation. We will give the commissioners an update and make another plea for a Capital Improvement Plan and touch lights for crosswalks to be installed soon! We will decide on a date and let you all know. ZOOM will be available. But, if you are able to attend in person, please reply to the email when we send you the date.

Please send even a small message to the JCT.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov to ask for attention to Roethe for traffic controls and safety for the Rex Putnam High School Zone and the many students K-12th grades that wait for busses and have to cross this busy street. Include a thank you to the county for recent signage improvements, we ARE appreciative of their work, thus far! Also, The Street Trust and Nicole Perry are helping with the Safe Routes to Schools Grant that we are applying for- but it is all dependent on funding and we still have to fight for it! It also takes about 3 years to implement and has not yet been finalized and submitted. Nicole organized an audit of the school zone with the county and school district (a group of about a dozen!) that happened in February. It was super helpful in getting the signage improvements already up this summer! We thank the county for their action! We have been involved in lots of input and collaboration this year, are appreciative and have hopes for further improvements!

Please get involved and help us!

Email Joyce if you know of other neighbors who would like to get involved.

Thank you,