



CITY OF REDMOND

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RE: Safety Improvements at SW 35th and Highway 126 in Redmond

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

ODOT and the State own and maintain two primary highways in Central Oregon: Highway 97 which runs north and south and Highway 126 which runs east and west.

As the hub of the fastest growing region in the state, our area is desperately behind in transportation infrastructure. Traffic congestion is becoming the norm, and safety challenges and threats continue to grow. Many of our state highways still have long, two lane stretches with no barriers between the lanes. Accidents and fatalities delay traffic even further.

As Central Oregon becomes increasingly congested, there is one critical intersection on West Highway 126 which is in dire need of safety improvements: The intersection at 126 (Highland) and SW 35th in Redmond needs a four-way traffic signal.

This traffic signal is absolutely critical.

The City has committed \$500,000 of our own dollars towards this \$3M - \$4M project.

A new Redmond Parks and Recreation center is being built on 35th just south of 126. This facility is estimated to attract more than 2,000 daily users, with approximately half of those drivers using the intersection of 35th and Highway 126. Safety statistics from 2016 - 2024 shows there were more than 260 motor vehicle crashes. Of those, 47 resulted in injuries and an additional 2 were fatalities. Anyone who drives that intersection can see that these numbers will only get worse. The Recreation. Center is expected to open in 2026. The clock is ticking. Redmond is ready to help.

Our hope is that the legislature funds this improvement before we are sitting here pointing to a fatality as the rationale for finally acting.

With warm regards,

Ed Fitch
Mayor
City of Redmond