

From: [Rachel Kimbrow](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Aebi, Andrew](#)
Subject: Item #85- LID 80th & Mill Street Street Improvements
Date: Monday, February 7, 2022 9:22:21 PM

To Portland City Council Members:

I am writing to thank the City of Portland, Andrew Aebi, and the various city agencies and departments that came together to improve the street and sidewalk conditions around SE 80th, and SE Mill Streets by Bridger Elementary School.

In 2015, I began filming other parents and the street conditions around Bridger Elementary, where my oldest daughter was a first-grade student. It was difficult for me and my 4 and 6-year-old children to walk, let alone bike, only a few blocks away because of the lack of infrastructure and drainage in our city neighborhood. I learned of a \$2,000.00 grant opportunity funded by a partnership between the Street Trust, Safe Routes to Schools, and APANO to highlight strengths and challenges in walking and biking to school. I collaborated with teachers, parents, students from Harrison Park and Bridger to show the challenges faced by these school communities. With this video, it was my hope that those who have some power to enact change would be motivated to bring not only safety but dignity to children and families attending Portland Public Schools on the East side of Mt. Tabor.

The improvements around Bridger are absolutely wonderful! It has made a difference - and made it possible- to walk, bike, or even rollerskate around the neighborhood. Children can now walk on a sidewalk next to their school, cross safely, and bike with great confidence. The intersection has now even been a destination for neighbors of all ages to meet each other during the pandemic.

There is still much to be done around Harrison Park. Where SE Mill street continues on the other side of 82nd Avenue of the Roses, the street is in similar conditions to the "before" pictures from the 80th and Mill project, with large puddles, no sidewalks, and difficult conditions for young pedestrians. It is my hope that future projects like this one are completed, with a clearer path now paved of how to collaborate with various agencies and stakeholders, including children.

Thank you,
Rachel Kimbrow

Producer of [A Rough Road Leads To Greatness. Where Are Our Safe Routes to Schools?](#)