

# English as a Second Language Driver Program

November 30, 2022



**A/Cmdr. David Abrahamson**



# SCOPE

This grant will provide funding for the Portland Police Bureau to provide driving instruction and traffic safety training to Portlanders who speak English as a second language (ESL) or have limited English proficiency (LEP). The primary objective is for PPB police and partners to educate, train, and empower IRNPs with classroom and hands-on driver's education training so they are confident and safe on our roadways.

# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- In 2013, Portland Police recognized it was responding to a large volume of crashes involving immigrants/refugees/New Portlanders' (IRNPs) who have been self-taught drivers, and not familiar with local laws.
- Driver education manuals and education were/are available in English or Spanish.
- Meetings were sought with IRNP organizations to hear how we can provide support. Through their input, content was created with government partners and funding was sought to create a program that would meet unserved needs.



# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- In 2015-2019 private and City grants were obtained for the program.
- Nearly 800 New Portlanders have attended previous courses.
- In 2018, the Oregon Driver Manual was translated into Russian through the assistance of Portland State University's Russian Flagship Program.
- PPB will utilize partners such as Oregon Impact, Portland Bureau of Transportation, Oregon Driver Education Center (ODEC), and Oregon Department of Transportation Safety Team to assist with education components.





# PERSPECTIVE



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These courses have been a catalyst for understanding and relationship with our diverse communities, breaking down fear of police, and providing greater understanding for PPB members.

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