



7688 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland, OR 97219

March 13, 2015

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission  
1900 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97201-5380

**Re: Transportation System Plan Project #90026**

Dear Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission:

The Multnomah Neighborhood Association strongly supports Transportation System Plan (TSP) Project #90026 (Capitol Hwy Corridor Improvements) as the neighborhood's top priority transportation project, which would bring much needed and overdue multimodal and stormwater improvements to the SW Capitol Highway Corridor between Multnomah Boulevard and Taylor's Ferry Road. This corridor serves as a critical link between the Multnomah Village business district and all points south. Currently, however, this busy stretch of roadway is known for its lack of basic infrastructure – no sidewalks, no bike lanes, no crosswalks, and no stormwater management. Quite simply, the corridor is woefully inadequate from an environmental standpoint and an outright danger for pedestrians and bicyclists alike.

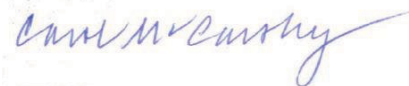
Since its development in 1996, the *Capitol Highway Plan* has provided a conceptual framework for pedestrian and bicycling improvements for SW Capitol Highway. Unfortunately, after nearly 20 years, the project remains incomplete. Were it to be completed, the Capitol Highway project would drastically improve the safety and livability for thousands of residents of Southwest Portland who depend on this vital corridor on a daily basis. Further, the addition of stormwater infrastructure would prevent deterioration of new and existing transportation infrastructure in this area, ensuring taxpayer dollars are well spent.

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI), individual neighborhoods, and local business associations continue to consistently rank the Capitol Highway project as the **top** transportation priority for SW Portland. As the neighborhood in which the project is located, Multnomah agrees with this ranking and believes that the project is needed now more than ever before.

In the last year, the Portland Street Fund Project List identified this project as the #1 sidewalk project in Portland set to receive \$5 million + \$5 million in SDC funds should the Street Fund pass. While we remain hopeful for this local funding, additional monies will be required to complete the project in its entirety. We urge the city to explore all avenues for state and local funding to help make this project within our community a reality. Demands on this roadway will only continue to increase as our area attracts more residents, and the condition of this important corridor is directly linked to our neighborhood's degree of livability and especially safety. We strongly believe that the project can be made a reality with further refinement of the design and pooling of funds from a variety of state & local sources.

Once again, the Multnomah Neighborhood Association urges your support for making TSP Project #90026 a top transportation priority within the City of Portland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carol McCarthy  
Multnomah Neighborhood Association Chair  
Portland, Oregon 97219

Cc: Mayor Charlie Hales  
Commissioner Nick Fish  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Steve Novick  
Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
Leah Treat, Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Art Pearce, Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Roger Averbeck, SWNI Transportation Committee Chair