



February 3, 2012

**Open letter to Mayor Sam Adams, Portland City Commissioners, Multnomah County Commissioners, State Representative Alyssa Keny-Guyer, Metro Councilor Barbara Roberts, Portland Development Commission Board and Staff, Portland Bureau of Transportation Staff:**

This letter is written in response to the latest pedestrian death on SE Foster Rd. Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. This hit and run victim is just the latest consequence of high speeds and lacking pedestrian safety on Foster Road. And sadly, there's no guarantee it will be the last until the city implements real safety improvements, such as safer crosswalks, more visible signage, and better lighting. The city-identified, high crash corridor has long been known as the "Foster Freeway," and pedestrian safety has historically been overlooked in favor of keeping traffic moving quickly, and sometimes abundantly, through Lents, Foster-Powell, Mt. Scott-Arleta, and Creston-Kenilworth.

The last pedestrian death was January 2010, when a pedestrian was struck and killed by a vehicle while crossing Southeast Foster Road. His death was the third in less than six months along a stretch of road with increasingly incompatible modes of usage.

In response to this cluster of pedestrian fatalities, Representative Ben Cannon organized a Foster Road Safety Summit to address concerns and plot future actions. This event was held September 14, 2010. A year and a half has passed since this meeting of over 100 residents, and no direct action has been taken to ameliorate the dangers on Foster Road.

The residents of Mt. Scott Arleta and Foster-Powell are tired of watching other transportation projects (such as the now defunct Lake Oswego Streetcar) gain traction because of their glamour, while our streetscape project, albeit not glamorous, will literally save lives.

What do we want? We want to see immediate action from the city regarding the safety issues on Foster. We have been placated on this issue, being told that the Streetscape Plan is coming. But with the latest shift of Lents URAC funds to FLIP, and the resulting additional community outreach, groundbreaking isn't scheduled until 2014. We can't wait another two years. We need action taken, regardless of the Streetscape Plan process, to ameliorate these safety issues, and we need that action to be fast-tracked. We ask that the City of Portland schedule a meeting with the affected neighborhoods (or their representative boards) as soon as possible with a clear plan to address the safety problems in the fastest means possible.

On behalf of the Mt. Scott-Arleta Neighborhood Association,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Anne Ross".

lisa anne ross  
MSANA Chair