

To: Kelly Brooks, ODOT Region 1 Enhance Program Manager
Re: 70s Bikeway STIP Request
From: BikeLoudPDX

cc: Commissioner Novick
Mark Lear
Leah Treat

Dear Ms. Brooks,

BikeLoudPDX, a Portland grassroots bicycle advocacy group, would like to give our enthusiastic support for funding the construction of the 70s neighborhood greenway in Portland.

This proposed neighborhood greenway would connect four local elementary and high schools to the recently expanded Southeast Campus of Portland Community College. Constructing a new greenway from NE 77th and NE Sacramento in the north to SE Flavel five miles to the south would complete a much-needed north-south route paralleling 82nd Ave, an ODOT-controlled, automobile-dominated High Crash Corridor.

The 70s greenway would also provide safe access to the Holgate Library, multiple parks and community centers, the developing Jade District commercial area, the future Foster Blvd bike lanes, and a future employment zone on 82nd Ave. The region of Portland that would be served by the 70s greenway has historically been under-served, particularly when it comes to active transportation. For example, this neighborhood lacks a north-south neighborhood greenway for the two-mile stretch between 52nd Ave to the west and the I-205 path to the east. When combined with the Davis-Everett greenway expansion, the 70s greenway would also create a safe and comfortable cycling route accessing inner SE neighborhoods.

As a city with one of the lowest graduation rates in the country, a strong greenway network would help provide a safe connection to secondary and tertiary education for students without access to personal automobiles. Because the proposed 70s greenway runs close to multiple public schools and community resources, this route could easily become the backbone of a network that fills an important transportation gap in “middle eastern” Portland. The 70s greenway would also help bring transportation equity to this demographically-diverse area.

For these reasons, we give our full support for construction of the 70s neighborhood greenway.

Sincerely,

Emily Guise and Ted Beuhler
BikeLoudPDX Co-Chairs

Approved by the general membership, Nov 2015