

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A candlelight vigil for victims of traffic violence

This Thursday, December 17, 4:30-5:30

ODOT Region 1 Headquarters

123 NW Flanders St, Portland, OR 97209

Liveable Streets Action- media contacts:

1. Roberta Robles 503-701-7749
2. Dan Kaufman 503-267-2862
3. Soren Impey 503-381-9854

Livable Streets Action is holding a candlelight memorial for the 403 Oregon traffic fatalities year to date. The vigil will be held this Thursday evening at the ODOT Region 1 Building.

The vigil is being held to highlight the expanding crisis of fatalities and serious injuries on Oregon Roads. This year, the death rate rose to more than one victim per day. 2015 has seen a 22% increase in fatalities over 2014 and this increase greatly outpaces the increase in vehicle miles driven.

A ghost bike and memorial signifying the recent death of an Oregonian on unsafe ODOT roads will be installed during the vigil. Martin Lee Greenough was killed on NE Lombard St/Highway 30 Bypass in an area that residents have highlighted as being exceptionally dangerous for many years.

The Oregon Department of Transportation is responsible for Lombard St and most of Portland's high crash corridors. ODOT has consistently resisted safety improvements that would make these urban highways safer for people walking, biking, and driving.

Livable Streets Action is calling on ODOT and the state legislature to transfer Lombard and the other state highways in Portland to the City of Portland. We also call on ODOT to prioritize funding that brings urban state highways up to city safety standards. And finally, we call on ODOT to accept, fund, and implement Vision Zero policies that prioritize the safety of all road users.

Participants will be encouraged to wear black attire and bring extra pairs of shoes that will be used to tangibly represent victims. Participants may also bring signs, messages, flowers, or other symbols of outrage and/or remembrance. Materials will be available to make signs.

Event pages can be found at <http://shift2bikes.org/cal/#17-5389> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/208060626194846/>

Livable Streets Action is a BikeLoudPDX affiliate group

