

DRAFT

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 16, 2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please consider this letter of support for the City of Milwaukie's application for a Safe Streets and Roads for All Supplemental Planning Grant. The City of Milwaukie is seeking the necessary funds to perform a Road Safety Assessment on the Harrison Street Corridor to identify and evaluate countermeasures that will mitigate fatalities and serious injuries for all roadway users within the corridor.

Milwaukie is located in Clackamas County in northwest Oregon and is home to approximately 21,000 residents across a five-square mile area. As a suburb to Portland, many residents choose to live in the area because they appreciate the small-town atmosphere with the benefits of its close location to Portland. Milwaukie prides itself on finding innovative solutions that not only help their community in the present, but also betters itself for the future.

The study area for this assessment includes Harrison Street from SE McLoughlin Boulevard (99E) to 42nd Avenue and 42nd Avenue to SE King Road. According to the Metro Regional Government's High Injury Corridors data, Harrison Street ranks within roughly the top third of corridors with the highest incident of injury crashes in the Portland Metro area. Based on Oregon Department of Transportation Crash Data from 2013-2022, there were 269 total crashes within this corridor, and 139 of them were injury crashes, as well as one fatal crash. Out of those 269 crashes, 19 of them were pedestrian or bicycle related crashes with 14 of those occurring within the last five years. Providing connections to transit systems, a local hospital, and a school, the Harrison Street Corridor is a vital arterial for the residents of Milwaukie including those walking and biking. Milwaukie is committed to finding a solution to combating fatal and serious injury crashes in this corridor, and this assessment is their first step. This study will identify known crash hotspots and contributing factors, evaluate countermeasures to mitigate crashes, promote safety, and provide a roadmap for the community to implement these strategies.



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Clackamas County is pleased to support the City's efforts and pledges to participate as a key stakeholder throughout the study and will support the City in implementation of countermeasures and strategies with the goal of achieving zero deaths and serious injuries on our region's roadways. We hope the Department will strongly consider Milwaukie's collaborative approach to improving safety in the region.

Sincerely,

Tootie Smith, Chair
On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners

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