



## Oak Lodge Community Council

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10 September 2010

Ted Miller  
Maintenance & Operations, Region 1  
Oregon Dept of Transportation  
123 NW Flanders  
Portland, OR 97209

### Re: Completion of 99E Sidewalks Just South of Park Avenue

Dear Mr. Miller,

In order to complete the pedestrian accessibility upgrades that ODOT initiated during the 2007-2008 McLoughlin Blvd/99E upgrade, the Oak Lodge Community Council supports and encourages ODOT to complete the sidewalks just south of Park Avenue.

Currently, safety is being compromised by the incomplete sidewalk system through this area. Pedestrians, wheel chairs, families with carts and strollers... are all being forced to walk on the shoulder of a major arterial highway. Reducing the posted speed limit from the current 40 mph is not the solution to this transportation/pedestrian conflict. Rather, isolating pedestrians from both bicycle and motor vehicles is the only viable, long term solution to these safety conflicts.

Pedestrian activity throughout the Oak Grove area has been increasing each year. And the sidewalk infill construction effort completed by ODOT a couple of years ago -- for which the Oak Grove community is grateful -- has stimulated more pedestrian growth. Unfortunately, several sections just south of Park Avenue were not included; thereby, leaving the job unfinished and incomplete.

The near-term development of the Park Avenue/McLoughlin Blvd area is going to bring increased commuter and neighborhood pedestrians to this area. Further, as TriMet builds out the terminus for the new "Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail" line at Park Avenue, the intermixing of pedestrians, vehicles, and bicycles traveling 99E is going to create greater opportunities for safety conflicts. Safety of pedestrians and wheel chairs -- segregated from both bicycle and vehicular traffic lanes -- should be a paramount concern for ODOT and is for the community of Oak Grove.

The following four sections of sidewalk are of the utmost concern to the Oak Lodge Community Council:

#### **Park Avenue to Silver Springs Road -- Approx 350 feet - Photos #1 to #3:**

OLCC is fully supportive of ODOT's plan to build out the sidewalk between the existing bicycle lane and the base of the "bluff", so as to avoid the expense of building a retaining wall. Our understanding is that curbing and a raised sidewalk would be completed to connect to the existing sidewalk south of Silver Springs Road.

**☑ 13222 SE McLoughlin Blvd / Your Host Motel - Approx 80 feet - Photo #4:**

OLCC believes that the current sidewalk *unnecessarily pushes* pedestrians into the bicycle lane adjacent to this location. Photo #4 shows the "newly constructed" ramp that directs pedestrians and wheel chairs into the bicycle lane... and within a couple of feet of oncoming traffic.

**☑ 13325 SE McLoughlin Blvd / Public Storage - Approx 80 feet - Photo #7:**

Directly across McLoughlin Blvd from Your Host Motel is another approximately 80-foot sidewalk segment that was never built out in 2008. Pedestrians are forced to walk on the dirt and those with wheel chairs or baby carts are pushed into the bicycle lane.

**☑ 13409 SE McLoughlin Blvd / Smith's Mobile Estates - Approx 200 ft - Photos #5 & #7:**

As Photo #5 illustrates, pedestrians and wheelchairs are forced into the bicycle lane to continue north, on the westbound side of 99E adjacent to Smith's Mobile Estates. Again, this creates a safety conflict between pedestrians and southbound bicycles vehicles. Many of the residents who live in the immediately adjacent community are disabled and isolated to this property without an adequate sidewalk.

In conclusion, as the Park Avenue / McLoughlin area is being re-developed over the coming few years, it is going to be critical to complete the handful of missing sidewalk segments. OLCC encourages ODOT to investment now in these safety improvements, thereby reducing the risks to liability from injury accidents and increasing the immediate livability of this portion of our community.

Feel free to contact me at 503.794.7076 or Fred Nelligan at 503.757.3964 if you have any questions. Again, thank you for ODOT's past and present commitment to the Oak Grove area.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanore Hunter

Chair, Oak Lodge Community Council

cc: Loretta Keifer, ODOT Region 1  
Basil Christopher, ODOT Region 1  
Joseph Auth, ODOT Region 1  
Barbara Cartmill, Clackamas County  
Dan Johnson, Clackamas County  
Fred Nelligan, CAC / PMLR representative  
OLCC Board of Directors

12880 SE McLoughlin Blvd (K&M Auto Services) to 13100 SE McLoughlin Blvd (H&R Block)

**Approximately 350 feet in length.**

#1: View looking north -- east side 99E.

#2: View looking south -- east side 99E.



Silver Springs Rd & SE McLoughlin Blvd to 13222 SE McLoughlin Blvd (Your Host Motel)

**Approximately 80 feet in length.**

#3: View looking north -- east side 99E.

#4: View looking south -- east side 99E.



13409 SE McLouglin Blvd (Smith's Mobile Estates)

**Approximately 200 feet in length.**

#5: View looking north -- west side 99E.

#6: View looking south -- west side 99E.



13325 SE McLouglin Blvd (Public Storage)

**Approximately 80 feet in length.**

#7: View looking north -- west side 99E.

