

DATE: September 6, 2022

RE: USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) 2022 Grant Application:  
NE/SE 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR

Dear Safe Streets for All Review Team:

I am writing with strong support for the City of Portland's Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant application that will enable safety improvements on NE/SE 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Currently, high travel speeds and auto-oriented design on this wide arterial street contribute to traffic safety issues that disproportionality impact vulnerable road users.

The street is one of the busiest and most important corridors in East Portland. Over six miles in length, 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue serves as a critical backbone for many neighborhood centers in our district. It provides important travel connections to essential jobs, services, and other community destinations. Additionally, many underserved communities live and work nearby, as the street intersects one of the most racially and ethnically diverse areas in the city and the state.

122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is designated as a "high crash corridor" for pedestrians and people biking or driving, meaning it is on the top-30 list of corridors in Portland with the highest number of severe crashes. Substandard infrastructure—like narrow and substandard sidewalks and pedestrian crossings that are too far apart—creates a difficult and stressful environment for people accessing transit.

TriMet has been proud to partner with PBOT to improve transit service and access on 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. As PBOT has made improvements to sidewalks and crossings, TriMet has made significant investments in service, upgrading Line 73 on 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to Frequent Service with buses arriving every 15 minutes or better, most of the day, every day.

We look forward to continuing to partner with PBOT on the proposed safety improvements that will improve conditions for pedestrians, people taking the bus, and reduce high vehicle speeds. With safety and sidewalk improvements, TriMet will be able to add new and expanded shelters and benches at our highest ridership bus stops, responding to long-standing community requests. These will be especially important as we launch our high-capacity bus service FX2-Division this fall, which provides a crucial connection with transit riders on 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Together we believe that these improvements will help to address the current issues on 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and increase safety for all modes, especially vulnerable road users in a high equity area of Portland.

For these reasons, I ask that you approve this application.

Sincerely,



Tom Mills  
Director  
Mobility Planning and Policy