

# S·M·I·L·E

SELLWOOD MORELAND IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE  
8210 SE 13th AVENUE, PORTLAND, OR 97202  
STATION 503-234-3570. CHURCH 503-233-1497

February 19, 2020

Director Chris Warner  
Portland Bureau of Transportation  
1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 800  
Portland, OR 97204

**RE: Sellwood Traffic Management Project**

Dear Mr. Warner:

Our neighborhood association would like to follow-up on the Sellwood Traffic Management Project.

As you know, in 2019 PBOT installed speed bumps on several streets in Sellwood as Phase I of a project to improve safety by reducing speeds on some of the cut-through streets on the east side of the Sellwood Bridge. As noted in your letter to Scott Kelly, SMILE Transportation Committee Chair dated July 24, 2019 (attached), PBOT committed to perform a follow up evaluation of Phase I starting approximately six months from the installation of the speed bumps. Based on the Phase I evaluation results, a potential implementation of a follow-up second phase of traffic calming mitigation would be performed, as needed.

In addition to a potential second phase of traffic calming mitigation, SMILE has repeatedly requested PBOT evaluate the new traffic signal at SE 6<sup>th</sup> & SE Tacoma to determine if a different type of signal may improve safety and reduce congestion on Tacoma and the resulting cut-through traffic. We expressed this to Rich Newlands (now retired), Jamie Jeffrey, and Jake Milligan of your staff during their analysis of the cut-through traffic in August 2017. PBOT's 2017 Analysis concluded that the queue spillback from the signal was a possible contributing factor to the cut-through traffic issues. However, we were informed that PBOT couldn't make any significant changes to the signal, other than adjusting the timing, until the Sellwood Bridge Project was finalized by Multnomah County and PBOT took full ownership of the signal. We understood that PBOT would evaluate the signal when ownership was transferred. We recently heard from Mike Pullen of the County that they expect finalization of the bridge project closeout by the end of June 2020.

With the transition of this project to new staff there seems to be some confusion about commitments made to the neighborhood. On 11-14-2019 we received an email from Dan Layden, PBOT Senior Project Manager, stating that the bureau does not have resources to address modifications to the signal at 6<sup>th</sup>

and Tacoma. This isn't consistent with what was stated by PBOT staff in 2017. We strongly encourage PBOT to evaluate this signal as part of your analysis of traffic calming mitigation.

We look forward to hearing back from your office regarding the follow-up evaluation. Please contact Scott Kelly, SMILE Transportation Committee Chair (707-407-6691, [tscottkelly@gmail.com](mailto:tscottkelly@gmail.com)) if there's anything we can do to facilitate your evaluation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Fulford", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Simon Fulford  
President, Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League

Cc: Commissioner Eudaly  
Dan Layden, PBOT Project Manager  
Jamie Jeffrey, PBOT Traffic Engineer

# PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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**Chloe Eudaly** Commissioner **Chris Warner** Director

July 24, 2019

Scott Kelly, Transportation Committee Chair  
SMILE Neighborhood Association  
8210 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Mr. Kelly,

The intent of this letter is to affirm the Portland Bureau of Transportation's commitments to completing the Sellwood Traffic Management Project, as defined through the public involvement process to date. This includes:

- Installation of the speed bumps at the locations agreed to for Phase I of the project (attachment A). Construction of the Phase I speed bumps are currently anticipated before the end of this summer;
- Follow up evaluation of Phase I starting approximately six months from installation of the speed bumps. The evaluation process shall at a minimum include collection of after speed and volume data to assess the effectiveness of the bumps and potential impacts to adjacent streets, as well as an opportunity for public feedback similar to the initial plan development phase completed this past March, and;
- Based on the Phase I evaluation results, a potential implementation of a follow-up second phase of traffic calming mitigation, as needed.

We appreciate the neighborhood association's support to date in working through the development of this project to date to address the neighborhood livability impacts associated with non-local cut-through traffic accessing the Sellwood Bridge.

Sincerely,



Chris Warner, Director  
Portland Bureau of Transportation

Attachment A: Phase I speed bump location map



*The Portland Bureau of Transportation fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the ADA Title II, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For accommodations, complaints and information, call (503) 823-5185, City TTY (503) 823-6868, or use Oregon Relay Service: 711.*