



South Tabor Neighborhood Association

May 24, 2022

TriMet Board of Directors
1800 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201

RE: Powell Division Safety Improvements Project

Dear Dr. Simmons, Vice President Bauman, and the TriMet Board of Directors:

At your March meeting, I asked for an update on the TriMet-led **Powell Division Safety Improvements Project**. This is a series of enhanced pedestrian crossings at key spots along SE Powell and SE Division, from SE Cesar Chavez to SE 151st. General Manager Desue said he would brief you in April, but he did not. I hope May's meeting is different.

The project was funded years ago to improve safety and access to transit at a series of intersections that had seen several major injuries and fatalities in the decade prior. Sadly, there have been **four traffic deaths this year alone** within a block of these same intersections.

Normally, this would lead to calls for funding safety improvements, but that happened years ago. Now we are simply waiting for this fully funded project to be built.

We understand that with a budget of \$2 million, this is a small project in the larger scheme of things. But it is a big project for us in South Tabor and Foster-Powell. More than half of the thirteen crossings touch our boundaries. Perhaps we were wrong to think that the smaller scope would have made it easier for TriMet to complete on schedule.

We hope to hear from you that this project has been flagged as a priority for TriMet and its partners at ODOT and PBOT. If not, we urge you to work with leadership and staff to fast-track the project and begin construction before the new Division line launches this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John C. Carr".

John Carr, Land Use Chair
South Tabor Neighborhood Association