



# PRESS RELEASE

REP. SHEMIA FAGAN  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 51

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For Immediate Release  
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## Legislature Delivers Funding for Sidewalks and Crosswalks for East Portland

SALEM – Today, Representative Shemia Fagan (D-North Clackamas/East Multnomah) delivered on her commitment to pedestrian safety by securing \$3.6 million for sidewalks and crosswalks on SE 136<sup>th</sup> Ave. in East Portland. This funding will provide a safe route for the 2000 children attending nearby schools.

On Feb. 28, 2013, 5-year-old Morgan Maynard-Cook was struck by a car and killed while crossing a dangerous stretch of SE 136<sup>th</sup> that lacks adequate crosswalks and sidewalks. Since then, Connie Ruiz, mother of 5-year-old Morgan, has been fighting for safe driving habits and for sidewalks and crosswalks on SE 136<sup>th</sup>.

“I am proud to have led the fight with Rep. Fagan to make sure no other family has to suffer the heartbreak that we are going through,” said Ruiz. “Morgan’s life meant everything to us. Rep. Fagan has made sure her death means something too.”

After being approached by Morgan’s family, Rep. Fagan, Representative Jeff Reardon (D-East Portland / Happy Valley), and Representative Jessica Vega Pederson (D-East Portland) formed and led the East Portland Caucus to pressure the Legislature to provide the \$3.6 million needed to begin immediate construction of crosswalks and sidewalks on SE 136<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Portland Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick, recently tapped to lead the City’s transportation bureau, worked with the East Portland Caucus to prioritize this joint effort.

“For too long East Portlanders have been told to ‘be patient,’” Rep. Fagan said. “But Morgan’s family, and every family, has a right to be very impatient when it comes to the safety of their children.” “I am proud to make East Portland a big winner in my first session in the Oregon House,” she added. “I was elected to fight for my district and I am proud to deliver something real.”

Construction has already begun for Phase I of the SE 136<sup>th</sup> sidewalks project funded by the Portland City Council. Phases II and III, funded today through House Bill 2322, will break ground this winter.

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