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Emergency Board Targets Public Safety Improvements in East Portland with the Outer Powell Boulevard Project

The project will focus on critical safety and mobility improvements along major portions of Powell Boulevard between 99th Ave and 174th Ave

SALEM, Ore. - In response to rising traffic fatalities impacting East Portland, the Oregon Legislative Emergency Board last Friday approved a $18 million grant application for federal funding to support the Outer Powell Boulevard Project.

The funding would focus on critical safety and mobility improvements along major portions of Powell Boulevard between 99th Ave and 174th Ave.

“We’ve seen some of the highest traffic deaths in this area. It’s past time we take action,” said Representative Janelle Bynum (D-Clackamas). “This is as much of an investment in our infrastructure as it is in community safety.”

The current roadway is mostly two lanes with shoulders often without sidewalks. The project will include protected bike lanes, raised sidewalks, improved traffic signals and lighting, a two-way center-turn lane, an improved stormwater system, and protected transit waiting areas.

“I appreciate that the focus of these infrastructure improvements is on reducing the number and severity of deadly crashes, and makes traveling safer for folks who walk, bike, or take the bus,” said Representative Khanh Pham (D-Portland). “These investments are an important step forward as we continue the work to make this entire corridor safe for all the tens of thousands of Oregonians who use this critical road."

The funds will come from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity program (RAISE) and will be allocated to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

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