



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **Legislature Funds Jurisdictional Transfer and Safety Improvements for 82nd Avenue**

*\$80 million for safety improvements to Oregon 213/82nd Avenue will be included in HB 5006 Budget Reconciliation Bill to complete the jurisdictional transfer agreement between ODOT and PBOT*

SALEM, OR--Today the Legislature approved \$80 million in funding to the Oregon Department of Transportation for much needed safety improvements on 82nd avenue. This funding also secures a future transfer of the highway from state to local government, a move community advocates and lawmakers representing 82nd avenue have long called for and repeatedly championed.

In a landmark May 2021 agreement, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) agreed to a \$185 million funding framework for eventual transfer of the roadway from state jurisdiction to local control under the city of Portland. To address the safety issues described, roughly \$95 million of the \$185 million would be allocated directly toward safety improvements. With the \$80 million allocation from the legislature, ODOT and PBOT commit to making the additional investments necessary to reach the full cost to transfer. The agreement is slated to be finalized via Intergovernmental Agreement by January 2022.

“This historic funding and agreement brings real change for the thousands of residents that rely on this street. As a community organizer, I have spent the last 5+ years working on this issue and this agreement is a testament to the power of community organizing and refusing to take no for an answer, said [Rep. Khanh Pham](#) (D-Portland).

“With this funding, we can realize the community vision to have these urban arterials be connecting forces for our neighborhood.”

82nd Avenue, also known as State Highway OR-213, is a defining roadway in Portland and is located in one of the most diverse areas of our state. However, it is also a dangerous road for

people walking, biking, and driving. Tragically, 16 traffic-related deaths occurred on 82nd Avenue between 2007 and 2018. As recently as April 2021, two pedestrians were killed on 82nd Avenue last month while trying to cross the street, further pressing the need for this landmark funding.

Destinations like the Jade District and Montavilla make 82nd Avenue a citywide attraction for restaurants, shopping, and services. It is a regionally significant transportation corridor, hosting one of TriMet's busiest bus lines, serving 20,000 to 30,000 vehicle trips a day.

“Securing the resources for a jurisdictional transfer of 82nd Ave has been a long time priority of APANO and the Jade District. Many of the communities we serve live and work along 82nd and have too long experienced dangerous speeds, a constant state of disrepair, and unsafe crossings. This investment will be transformative for the corridor and greatly improve the day to day lives of many of the region's most vulnerable, including our elders and youth,” said **Duncan Hwang**, Associate Director at APANO and resident along 82nd avenue.

ODOT/PBOT agreement would include the cost of bringing signals, lighting, ADA ramps (total \$95 million), pavement (\$78 million), and stormwater (\$12 million) to state of good repair, and addressing some of the most urgent deficiencies in sidewalks and pedestrian crossings. All of these improvements align with the City's future vision for the roadway and will be implemented over the next several years.

“This is an incredible win for our community! The issue of transferring 82nd Ave to local jurisdictions has been a long drawn out fight that many in our community have been advocating for over the past few decades. With this deal to fund and transfer the road, the work of reimagining 82nd with the community begins! Oregon Walks is dedicated to ensuring equitable outcomes along this road, not just in active transportation but also housing, economic development, place making, and safe access to schools and parks,” said **Ashton Simpson**, Executive Director at Oregon Walks - a nonprofit advocating for safe and walkable pedestrian streets.

“There are many families, businesses, and transit along 82nd Avenue, including a high school and community centers. 82nd Avenue is the center line geographically in Portland, but 82nd Ave has also been a dividing line in terms of race and socio-economic class, and historically marginalized communities are unfairly impacted by dangerous streets in East Portland. “This long-awaited funding will transform 82nd Avenue from a dangerous dividing line into a safe, community-focused bridge,” said [Sen. Michael Dembrow](#) (D-Portland) who has worked on this issue since 2014 and represents much of the Portland portion of 82nd avenue.

This funding is within [HB 5006](#) which is expected to pass with bipartisan support. Once signed by the Governor, ODOT will implement safety improvements from this funding beginning fall 2021.

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