

**State Representative
Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer)**



**NEWS RELEASE:
NOVEMBER 1, 2006**

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St. Paul Crosswalk Project Moving Forward

(Salem) "I am optimistic this important public safety project will finally get off the ground in the next couple of months," said State Representative Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) today after meeting with officials from the City of St. Paul and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The city has been trying to get a crosswalk and sidewalks installed near [St. Paul High School](#) along State Highway 219 for the past several years without success.

When Thatcher learned about the city's frustrations she contacted ODOT to inquire about the project. Don Jordan, [ODOT's Mid-Willamette Valley District Manager](#) for Highway Maintenance, and City Recorder Lorrie Biggs were among the participants at today's meeting. The city received a \$50,000 grant five years ago to pay for the project but not much has happened since then. Thatcher is grateful for ODOT's commitment to assist the city in seeing this project to completion.

"We appreciate Representative Thatcher's help with the situation and after today's meeting we are hopeful this can be resolved. We will be working with ODOT to get this crosswalk in place," said Biggs. As a result of the meeting, the project is expected to go out for bid as early as next month and construction should be complete sometime next spring.

In addition to the new crosswalk, an agreement was reached today to put in 300 feet of sidewalk in front of the high school. [Flashing lights have also been planned](#) as part of a separate project. "This may sound like a simple thing to do but being in the transportation business myself, I know there are other considerations involved like drainage and widening the roadway," pointed out Thatcher.

Representative Thatcher explained, "I understand the city's frustrations but I am confident many of the issues can now be worked out and we can get this project moving forward." Thatcher has also been in contact with Marion County officials to see if they can offer any assistance. Thatcher served on the House Transportation Committee last year and she added, "St. Paul is a small town. Lot of students walk to school and we need to make sure they can get there safely."

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