



Senator Chuck Thomsen

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Michael Gay
(503) 986-1950

Safer sidewalks coming to Southeast Portland

Salem, OR – In the waning days of the Oregon legislature, Senator Chuck Thomsen (R-Hood River) was able to secure \$3.6 million for key sidewalk improvements in southeast Portland. The need for sidewalk expansions on SE 136th Avenue between Division St. and Foster Rd. has become starkly highlighted after 5-year-old Morgan Cook was hit by a vehicle on this road earlier in the year.

“I have heard from dozens of constituents demanding something be done to improve safety on 136th Ave,” said Thomsen. “I’m thrilled we were able to get something done. This is a big win for the community, and I think it will go a long way not just to improve pedestrian safety, but to increase livability in the area.”

The funding was secured in HB 2322, one of the last bills to be approved by the legislature. With the help of Senator Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro) and Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose), the bill took unused funds from a project on Cornelius Pass Road in Washington County and dedicated them to the sidewalk project.

“Chuck Thomsen was a persistent advocate for improved pedestrian walkways in southeast Portland,” said Senator Bruce Starr (R-Hillsboro). “It was a pleasure to assist him in achieving this goal.”

The Portland Bureau of Transportation projects that the of cost for sidewalk construction along SE 136th Ave is \$3.6 million.

Thomsen was first elected to the State Senate in 2010. He is a fourth generation orchardist from Hood River. He graduated from Hood River High School in 1975, and went on to graduate from Willamette University. Thomsen has been a volunteer firefighter with the Pine Grove Fire Department for thirty years. Thomsen served as a Hood River County Commissioner for 16 years.

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