



## Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219 (503) 823-4592

October 21, 2009

Sue Keil, Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 800  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Mobility Corridor Refinement Plan

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) urges the City of Portland, ODOT and Metro to select the I-5/99W mobility corridor, Portland Central City to Tigard (corridor #2) for the next Corridor Refinement Plan. This includes Barbur Boulevard and feeder routes as described in Metro's "Atlas of Mobility Corridors."

Significant congestion occurs frequently on I-5, causing significant local congestion on Barbur Blvd., Capitol Highway, Taylors Ferry Road, Terwilliger Blvd., Macadam Ave. and other arterials and local streets. Many of the freeway on and off-ramps are located on local streets, creating backups in our neighborhoods, especially when the local colleges are in session or when I-5 is at a stall.

We support the Active Transportation initiative and worked with you to develop a proposal for Barbur Blvd. and other key routes to develop a network that would make these routes safer to walk or ride a bicycle. Most of the arterials and collectors in our coalition area have significant sections of missing sidewalks and bike paths, and it is difficult to travel to schools and shops without depending on an automobile.

The corridor refinement plan is critically important at this time to evaluate how the selection of Barbur as a near-term priority for high-capacity transit will allow Barbur to accommodate all modes of transportation (transit, bicycles, pedestrians and motor vehicles) while preserving livability in the neighborhoods and the economic vitality of the commercial businesses in the corridor. If not done right, the addition of high-capacity transit on Barbur could result in loss of auto and freight capacity, housing, businesses, greenspaces and habitat, have a negative impact on mobility, and exacerbate congestion on adjacent transportation routes in neighborhoods.

We urge you to make the I-5/99W mobility corridor a high priority for the next Corridor Refinement Plan.

Sincerely,

Brian Russell  
President  
Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

cc: Metro, ODOT