



Ashcreek-Crestwood

Neighborhood Association

October 31, 2025

City of Portland City Councilors in District 4

Councilor Olivia Clark

Councilor Mitch Green

Councilor Eric Zimmerman

Portland Public Works Deputy City Administrator Priya Dhanapal

Re: Safety Improvements Needed at SW Multnomah Blvd/SW Garden Home Road

Dear District 4 City Councilors and DCA Dhanapal:

The Ashcreek-Crestwood Neighborhood Association has been asking for transportation safety improvements at the intersection of SW Multnomah Blvd and SW Garden Home Road for decades. We have been working in partnership with the Maplewood Neighborhood Association and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) for many years and hope the city will fund needed safety improvements in our neighborhoods as soon as possible.

PBOT had secured \$2.2 million for the safety improvements in 2018, but in 2020, due to an unanticipated reduction in Transportation System Development charge revenue, the project budget was cut by \$1 million, and in 2021 another \$1 million from Washington County was reallocated to other priorities, leaving only \$200,000 in the budget today. The project was never constructed and the need is still there.

The intersection of SW Multnomah Blvd and SW Garden Home Road is very dangerous due to oblique angles, poor sight distances and high traffic speeds. The area has experienced significant growth since Portland accepted jurisdiction on May 13, 1992 (ordinance 165422) when the intersection was identified as a high accident location and high priority for citizens, and was included in Portland's Capital Improvement Plan.

- The intersection is located within the Garden Home commercial district zoned for mixed use and multifamily dwellings and includes many thriving commercial businesses;
- There have been many motorist, bicycle and pedestrian crashes in and near this intersection, including fatalities and serious injuries;
- Although PBOT lowered traffic speed limits, motorists frequently exceed the speed limits, especially westbound drivers on SW Multnomah Blvd;

- The intersection is part of a popular regional bicycle route between Portland and Washington County (an old railroad bed), but the bike lane striping is frequently worn out from motor vehicles traveling in the bike lane;
- There are no motor vehicle outlets from the Ashcreek residential neighborhood for more than a mile of the intersection, creating a lot of traffic backups from vehicles traveling westbound on Garden Home Road trying to make left turns;
- School buses and TriMet buses are included in the motor vehicle traffic trying to make a left turn from westbound Garden Home Road and SW 69th;
- The roadways carry freight traffic accessing nearby commercial areas and highways; SW Multnomah Blvd and SW Garden Home Road are major connectors between Portland and Washington County and an alternative motor vehicle route to Highway 217.

A few safety improvements have been made over the last decade: a speed safety camera was installed on westbound SW Multnomah at SW 69th to help slow down traffic entering the Garden Home commercial district; a crosswalk was constructed across SW Garden Home Road to make it safer for people to walk to the Garden Home Shopping Center (but there are gaps in the sidewalks to get to the crosswalk); and the Old Market Pub reconfigured the traffic flow through its parking lot. These small improvements have helped, but more needs to be done to make the intersection much safer for everyone.

We hope that you help us secure funding for this transportation safety project as soon as possible. Some options, such as a traffic signal at this complicated intersection, will make it safer for cars, TriMet buses, school buses and others trying to get into and out of our neighborhoods. Safer traffic flows, slower motorist speeds, crosswalks, sidewalks and better bike lanes will benefit everyone.

Please let us know if we can meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Marianne Fitzgerald
President, Ashcreek-Crestwood Neighborhood Association

Cc: Millicent Williams, Corrine McQueen and Andrew Aebi, PBOT
Claire Carder, Maplewood Neighborhood Association

Attach: Ordinance 165422 (IGA with Washington County) dated May 13, 1992
Ashcreek NA Letter Dated November 17, 2015 seeking funding for this project