

November 3, 2013

Commissioner Amanda Fritz

Commissioner Steve Novick

Request to move forward with the Red Electric Trail

The Red Electric Trail is an important pedestrian and bicycle facility between the Willamette River and the Washington County line. The trail is named for and follows in part the alignment of a passenger train that serviced Southwest Portland and suburbs into the 1920's. As planned, the trail provides a stand-alone route for exercise and transportation through the heart of SW Portland. As a part of the Metro area, linkages are made to Downtown and the Springwater Corridor, and the Fanno Creek Trail in Washington County.

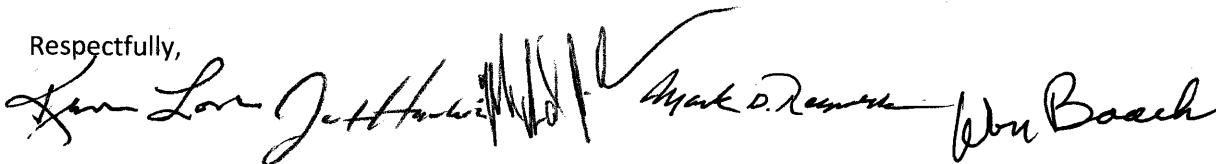
Portland Parks and Recreation in 2007 produced a master plan on the alignment of the trail, and has been the recipient of some initial funding for trail development. This is an important start in the development of this facility. Alignments have been rough-mapped out. Benefits have been identified. Residents and communities have been energized by the opportunities this Trail creates. Many organizations will need to cooperate at individual steps for sections of the trail to become reality.

We want to enlist your support as one of those organizations in moving the Red Electric Trail forward. On our immediate action list we have the *following*:

- Determine final layout of the Red Electric Route from Himes Park/Parkhill Drive to existing Slavin Road
- *Finalize agreements with ODOT on route* from George Himes Park north to Corbett Street following Slavin Road alignment
- Completion of Himes Park vicinity land needs
- Budgeting for Pedestrian/Bike facilities next to the Barbur Newberry Structure (over Iowa Street extended)
- Planning and acquisition/mapping of missing sections, especially abandoned section of former rail grade that follows on SW Bertha extended from SW 33<sup>rd</sup> west approximately 2 blocks.
- Acquisition of other missing Right of Way segments
- Obtain permits for construction pedestrian trail
- Volunteers build pedestrian trail
- This will be followed with requests for funding to upgrade the trail to a multimodal facility at a later date.

As a part of this initiative, we would like to meet with you and your staff to discuss the places you can be of direct assistance in this public project. Help us move this project forward.

Respectfully,



South Pcrtlnd NA    Hayhurst NA    Hillsdale NA    Hillsdale Bus Prof Assn    SWTrails

Cc: Mike Abbate, Leah Treat, Jim Desmond, Dan Saltzman, Mayor Hales, Nick Fish, Bob Stacey

Dick Schouten, BTA, Oregon Walks, SWNI, SWTrails