SE Uplift
NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION

Southeast Uplift
3534 SE Main St.
Portland, OR 97214
503-232-0010
seuplift.org

February 20, 2026

Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition
Nanci Champlin, Executive Director
Matchu Wiliams, Neighborhood Planning Program Manager

Re: SE Uplift Support for Inner Powell Blvd Safety & Transit Priority Project

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Southeast Uplift Neighborhood Coalition (SE Uplift) in Portland, I am writing to express our **strong support for the "Inner SE Powell Blvd (Hwy 26) Safer Signals and Transit Priority: Milwaukie Ave – 82nd Ave" project proposal by the Portland Bureau of Transportation** and hope you will include the project in the 2028-2030 Transportation System Management & Operations (TSMO) funding cycle.

SE Uplift is the district coalition office for Portland's District 3 and includes representation from community groups, business district associations, and 19 neighborhood associations serving more than 167,000 residents. Established in 1968, our mission is "to collaborate with Portland's District 3 community to build informed, inclusive, and participatory neighborhoods that support our social and ecological well-being." The Inner SE Powell Blvd Safer Signals and Transit Priority project reflects community priorities and supports the community vision. 76% of the respondents to our community survey view crossing improvements on corridors including Powell Blvd as a high priority, while 66% specifically call for signal timing and transit prioritization. These community needs are reflected by decisions of the SE Uplift Board of Directors, which includes grassroots participation from across the 19 neighborhoods in the district, in their support to create a safer Inner Powell Blvd for all users through the project's safety improvements and transit efficiencies.

Inner Powell Blvd is the second deadliest street in Portland and a High-Crash Corridor with an estimated 4,980 total students and staff attending six schools along the corridor. Each day students, families, and people must navigate dangerous connections to reach opportunities and destinations. Powell Blvd has the unique distinction as the top street in Portland with the most deaths and serious injuries for pedestrian crashes and motor vehicle crashes and the second most for bicycle crashes (Source: ODOT Crash Data System for 2017-2021). Transit riders face significant delays in accessing schools, opportunities, and important destinations along this Major Transit Priority Street. The stewardship by the Portland Bureau of Transportation for this project uplifts the community vision

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while addressing critical needs and improving reliability for travel choices and strengthening connections on Inner Powell Blvd.

In keeping with our mission and the community needs to improve the safety, mobility, and connections of our neighbors while also reducing barriers for vulnerable road users, SE Uplift urges Metro to prioritize the “Inner SE Powell Blvd (Hwy 26) Safer Signals and Transit Priority: Milwaukie Ave – 82nd Ave” project for the 2028-2030 Transportation System Management & Operations funding cycle. We believe these investments are critical to safety and connectivity in southeast Portland and the metro region.

Sincerely,
Matchu Williams, SE Uplift Neighborhood Planning Program Manager
By the authority of Nanci Champlin, SE Uplift Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Directors.