

Greetings Willamette Pedestrian Coalition members! Fall is in the air and we hope you are enjoying the changing leaves from our cities sidewalks and crosswalks. One of our goals is to keep you informed of news, events, and opportunities available for pedestrians at WPC and around the region. Our \*footnotes editor is out of the country so we decided to distribute our newsletter electronically.

#### News:

1. WPC has a new office
2. Sidewalks & Crosswalks Initiative: WPC ask your help to identify problem areas for pedestrians
3. WPC has been awarded a three year grant from the Northwest Health Foundation
4. WPC receives a grant to increase work in Washington County
5. WPC the facts: an update on our budget and membership
6. Oregon Pedestrian Rights: Legal Guide for Persons on Foot
7. Sidewalk Café Advisory Committee Convenes
8. High Capacity Transit Think Tank
9. Sellwood Bridge Citizen Task Force

#### Events:

1. City of Portland Transportation Safety Awareness Fair, Oct 7-10
2. White Cane Day Event in Portland Oct 15, 10-12:30
3. Oregon Citizens asked to Comment on Draft 2010-2013 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

#### Opportunities for Participation:

1. WPC is looking for help to upgrade our Website
2. The Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee needs new members
3. Community Involvement Committee for the Portland Plan recruiting members
4. Survey for the Airport Way/I-205 Interchange Project

#### NEWS:

1. WPC has a new office

In late September the WPC made the huge leap of procuring an office. The office is located at 711 SE Grand in the new office of Alta Planning and Design. We are thrilled with the opportunities this big step creates for us. We will be having an open house in a few weeks, so stay tuned to your email. We are in need of a few items to stock our office, including a laser printer with a copier and scanner, a book shelf and office supplies. If you have any items you would like to donate please email [info@wpcwalks.org](mailto:info@wpcwalks.org) or call Lynn at 503-223-1597. All donations are tax deductible.

2. Sidewalks & Crosswalks Initiative

We all have complaints about missing sections of sidewalks, absent or dangerous crosswalks, unpleasant conditions or circumstances where you simply "can't get there from here". With your help in the coming months the WPC will prepare a list of priority pedestrian improvements needed to make walking safer and more convenient. It is hoped the potentially long list can include good examples of most needed pedestrian network improvements.

We will be seeking community input, but we look to our own membership for the most thoughtful nominations for the list. Start thinking about your walking pet peeves..... where you might have had a close encounter with an automobile, places you just avoid because of unpleasant conditions, or destinations you simply can't reach on foot. We will collect your ideas with a survey and build the list by category.

This effort is inspired by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance's Blueprint for Better Biking: 40 Ways to Get There, but will be unique in addressing pedestrian needs. This list will make the case for increasing accountability and funding for a safe and pleasant environment for walking – and bolstering attractive alternatives to driving.

3. WPC has been awarded a three year grant from the Northwest Health Foundation. The grant is an exciting step for the WPC and will enable us to increase our profile in the community as an advocate for pedestrian projects, empowerment, and education. WPC received the grant because studies have demonstrated that people who live in walkable communities that provide a variety of transportation choices tend to be healthier than those who don't.

WPC is excited to participate in making the important link between public health and our urban environment. With the grant we plan to develop a Sidewalks and Crosswalks Initiative, provide pedestrian safety and pedestrian rights information and education, and train citizens in how to be pedestrian advocates on committees and in their communities. The focus of the grant is on the elderly and minority populations in East Multnomah County and Washington County, but we hope that the programs, initiatives, and experience we develop with the grant will also benefit pedestrians throughout the Portland Metro region.

4. WPC receives a grant to increase work in Washington County. Washington County Commissioner Dick Schouten designated \$750 for the WPC to increase our efforts there. This grant will enable us to increase our presence in Washington County and work with those who are currently advocating for better pedestrian infrastructure and connectivity.

5. WPC the facts: an update on our budget and membership. WPC is growing and changing. The following is a snapshot of our "stats" over the last two years.

Revenues since mid-December 07: \$8,795, including

- \$ 2,560 memberships
- \$ 1,565 extra donations from members
- \$ 700 Alta for Safe Sound & Green initiative
- \$ 3,000 major donations from members at and after the Annual Meeting
- \$ 200 Clogs-N-More

In-kind donations since mid-December 07: \$8,428

- \$ 5,860 PDOT: printing Pedestrian Legal Guide
- \$ 2,527 Grapheon: production of Pedestrian Legal Guide
- \$ 40 Board member: two t-shirts

Grants: \$ 12,750

- \$ 750 Washington County
- \$ 12,000 Northwest Health Foundation

WPC has launched an aggressive fundraising campaign to enable implementation of our ambitious Strategic Plan, to support the Director position, and to diversify our funding base. The target is \$ 20,000 / year. As you can see, we are well on our way for the first year! Besides increasing the general membership, we will start seeking contributions from small businesses and professionals.

6. Oregon Pedestrian Rights: Legal Guide for Persons on Foot. Books are still available. If you are interested in a copy of the new "Oregon Pedestrian Rights: Legal Guide for Persons on Foot" please contact the WPC; they are \$10 and free for WPC members.

#### 7. Sidewalk Café Advisory Committee Convenes

In response to an increase in public attention to sidewalk café activities making it difficult for passing pedestrians, the Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) has formed a Sidewalk Café Advisory Committee to provide input on the City's sidewalk café permit program. The goal is to update the current code that regulates the program. Jeanne Harrison is representing the WPC on the committee. The committee is scheduled to meet through early December. Previous attempts to update city code occurred in 1995 and 2003, but no changes were made. The sidewalk café permit program aims to balance the benefits of having sidewalk cafes in the public right-of-way with the need of pedestrians to navigate public sidewalks. Under PDOT's current program, the annual permit fees do not cover the cost of basic permit processing.

#### 8. High Capacity Transit Think Tank

Metro is leading the preparation of the High Capacity Transit System Plan that will guide the region's investment in high capacity transit – light rail, commuter rail, bus rapid transit and streetcar. The plan will inform The Regional Transportation Plan which is the region's blueprint guiding transportation policy and investments in coordination with land use goals. The Willamette Pedestrian Coalition is participating on a 20-member "Think Tank" committee, made up of professionals, citizens and organization representatives. Board Members Phil Selinger and Todd Borkowitz will represent the WPC. The "Think Tank" had good discussion at its October 7th meeting and will next meet in December with report completion scheduled for spring 2009.

All modes of transportation need to work together and major transportation investments are effective only if they are accessible and safe for everyone. The WPC will promote integrated pedestrian investments that assure that the region's world-class transit system supports livable communities and the diverse needs of our citizens. Questions or comments may be addressed to [info@wpcwalks.org](mailto:info@wpcwalks.org) with the heading: "Think Tank Comments".

#### 9. Sellwood Bridge Citizen Task Force

After a hiatus of several months, the Sellwood Bridge Citizen Task Force (CTF) will start meeting again this month to review and discuss the results of the alternatives analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and to recommend a preferred alternative to Multnomah County and the Policy Advisory Committee. WPC Board member Lidwien Rahman represents the WPC on the Citizen Task Force.

#### EVENTS:

##### 1. White Cane Day in Portland, Wednesday, Oct 15, 10-12:30

You are invited to participate in this celebration walk to help increase awareness of the White Cane Law and to highlight the need for pedestrian safety for those who use canes and guide dogs. Meet at Independent Living Resources, 2410 SE 11th Avenue and walk to an indoor rally at the Oregon Commission for the Blind, 535 SE 12th Avenue.

Walking Route: All walking will occur on sidewalks, not blocking buildings or sidewalks; not changing or impeding the flow of traffic; street crossings will be made legally; volunteers will be stationed along the route. From ILR, participants will walk north on east side of SE 11th Avenue to north side of (cross) SE Madison; East on north side of Madison to (do not cross) SE 12th Avenue; North on west side of SE 12th Avenue to Oregon Commission for the Blind 535 SE 12th Avenue.

2. City of Portland Transportation Safety Awareness Fair, October 7-10 at PCC SE Campus.

2305 SE 82nd and Division, Portland. The fair will include pedestrian classes from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 9 and Friday, October 10. WPC members will be on hand in the student lobby to answer questions from 11am until 2.

3. Oregon citizens asked to comment on Draft 2010-2013 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

The Oregon Transportation Commission has released the draft 2010-2013 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and has opened a public comment period that runs through November. The transportation construction projects in the draft STIP constitute the four-year capital improvement plan for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), identifying the highest priority transportation projects to be constructed in 2010-2013. The STIP covers four years of construction projects, and is updated every two years. ODOT Region 1, which includes the Portland metro area, Columbia, Washington, Clackamas, and Hood River Counties, has scheduled seven public meetings to gather comment on the 2010-2013 draft STIP.

Public Meetings with Metro and its MTIP Construction Project List

Four of ODOT's public meetings will be held jointly with Metro, which is following a parallel public involvement process asking citizens to comment on its federally funded draft Transportation Priorities 2010-2013 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). For a list of Metro's proposed transportation projects, please call 503-797-1839 or visit [www.metro-region.org](http://www.metro-region.org).

Gresham: Wednesday Oct. 15, 5 pm—8 pm

Gresham City Hall, Conference Rooms 2A and 2B  
1333NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham

Hillsboro: Monday Oct. 20, 5 pm—8 pm

Hillsboro Civic Center  
1233 W. Main Street  
Rooms 113 B and 113 C, Hillsboro

Oregon City: Tuesday Oct. 28, 5 pm—8 pm

Oregon City Pioneer Community Center  
615 Fifth Street, Oregon City

Portland: Thursday Oct. 30, 5 pm—8 pm

Metro Council Chambers  
600 NE Grand Ave., Portland

Many Ways to Comment

ODOT has scheduled public meetings all over Oregon; for a complete list of public meetings please visit <http://www.odot.state.or.us/stip/index.html> and click on "Public Meetings 2010-2013 STIP"

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION:

1. WPC is looking for help to upgrade our Website

As part of our changes we will be improving our Website and we are looking for someone who has experience in Website design. If you have designed a website before and are interested in helping the WPC with this endeavor please email Lynn at [info@wpcwalks.org](mailto:info@wpcwalks.org).

2. The Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee needs new members

The City of Portland Office of Transportation is recruiting new members for the Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Contact: April Bertelsen, Phone: 503-823-6177. The application deadline is Wednesday, November 12. For more information visit:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?c=39132&a=213162>

3. Community Involvement Committee for the Portland Plan recruiting members The Bureau of Planning is recruiting members for its Community Involvement Committee for the Portland Plan.

Link to Application Form on website: <http://www.portlandonline.com/shared/cfm/image.cfm?id=213413>

4. You are invited to take the survey for the Airport Way/I-205 Interchange Project

Project partners began this project last year to improve the flow of Airport Way traffic accessing I-205 north at the Airport Way interchange. The Airport Way interchange provides a critical connection for travelers and the movement of regional goods. Take the Survey!

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wh6FiACkmgJvswlYuZyiDw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wh6FiACkmgJvswlYuZyiDw_3d_3d)

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