



## CITY OF BEND

May 5, 2021

Century West Neighborhood Association

Sent via Email

Dear Century West Neighborhood Association Board and Members,

We are writing in reply to your April 1st letter outlining the safety concerns on Century Drive and requesting changes, in particular on the section between the Reed Market/Mt Washington roundabout and Bachelor View Road. The loss of Kathleen Sue Case was tragic for her family, the other driver and passengers, all first responders, and the neighborhood, as all traffic related deaths are. Thank you for your on-going work with staff to share neighborhood concerns and improve the corridor. We do understand the frustration in waiting for improvements to be funded, especially when our community experienced the unfortunate loss of a life on Century Drive recently.

The City Council recognizes the need to improve street safety for all users and is finalizing Council Goals for the next two years that will focus on programs to reduce crashes, manage speeds, and prioritize vulnerable users and neighborhoods. The City Council is supportive of working to try to identify resources to improve street safety as the biennial budget process occurs over the next couple of months. Budget Deliberations scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> will consider allocating some funds to leverage for Century Drive safety improvements, such as local match funds required for the Federal Access Lands Access Program (FLAP). More details will come after biennial budget adoption and staff initiates the Council goal work later this summer and fall.

Your letter requested a number of improvements focused around speed reduction and safe crossings. After reviewing your request and considering the context, NSSP program, and crash history on Century Drive, City staff can provide the following for Century Drive in the next year:

- **Speed Limit Reduction:** The City met with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) staff and the Century West Speed study fieldwork was accelerated from spring 22 to summer 21. In June we will get an update on the estimated report completion date after field data is collected.

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- Speed Radar Sign: The city will purchase and install a stationary radar in the southbound direction. Staff will coordinate with you on location prior to the install
- Crossing Enhancements: The City and ODOT will expand a Federal Lands Access Grant (FLAP) application that ODOT was applying for to include a crossing enhancement at Mammoth Drive to connect the north/west residences to the Haul trail. Application process for this Grant is expected to begin this summer.
- The Bend Police Department uses data to help support where their efforts are best spent. By using the speed data that is collected, throughout the City of Bend, we are able to determine where the highest speeds are and to have focused enforcement in those areas. The speed data does not support Bend Police prioritizing additional enforcement in the area of Century Drive on a consistent basis. Our Traffic Safety Unit has one Sergeant, two traffic officers and one dedicated DUII officer, for the City of Bend. Patrol officers often conduct extra patrols in certain areas when they are in between radio calls for service, so it is possible for a request to be made for extra speed patrols; however, this is not a request that can be a consistent presence as the patrol officers are responding to 911 calls as well as other non-emergency calls.

Our community just prioritized a General Obligation Bond with specific projects to improve safety across the city. As you know the Century Drive improvements were not included in the initial project list for the next ten years, and there is not additional funding outside of the bond for completing the larger Century Drive improvements at this time. Staff will continue to look for grant and other opportunities to accelerate improvements along the corridor.

Sincerely,



David Abbas, PE  
Transportation & Mobility Department Director

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