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ODOT Releases Barbur Boulevard Road Safety Audit Report

ODOT released the Barbur Boulevard Road Safety Audit Report Monday which assesses safety issues along a 4.3-mile section of Barbur Boulevard in Southwest Portland.

A road safety audit utilizes an independent, multidisciplinary team to examine the safety performance of a road and make recommendations about possible improvements. The independent team included engineers from the public and private sector. A resource team composed of bicycle, pedestrian and neighborhood advocates and as well as local employers also participated in the audit.

“This road safety audit provides ODOT with a fresh look at both the safety challenges along Barbur Boulevard and the effectiveness of \$8 million in recent investments along the corridor,” said Rian Windsheimer, ODOT’s Region 1 Manager. “I look forward to working with my team over the coming months to review to the findings in the report and identify priority improvements we can get on the ground quickly.”

ODOT initiated the audit last summer in response to concerns by people who live, work and travel along the corridor.

The report identified safety issues throughout the corridor and categorizes potential solutions into near term, intermediate and long term. The report did not provide cost estimates, assess technical feasibility or set out a schedule for completion.

The team specifically examined the 4.3 mile section of Barbur Boulevard from Southwest Capitol Highway to Naito Parkway. The audit team reviewed data and spent several days in the field along the corridor, including a lengthy bike ride.

The audit took place independent of the Southwest Corridor Plan now under study by Metro and other local governments. ODOT will share results of the road safety audit with the Metro team for consideration in future plans.

The cover letter, written by Sue D'Agnese, ODOT's regional traffic manager, and Hermanus Steyn, a principal engineer with Kittelson & Associates and the audit team leader, says, "The mix of near-term to long-term solutions will help the region prioritize and plan improvements for pedestrians, commuters, freight, bicycles and mass transit."

The report and the cover letter can be seen at www.barbursafety.org.

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