



Oregon Department of Transportation  
355 Capitol St. N.E.  
Salem, OR 97301-3871

To Whom It May Concern:

With another summer travel season fast approaching, business leaders within our community have expressed concerns regarding the challenges visitors and local residents face each year during ODOT construction projects along Highway 26.

While we understand the necessity for transportation projects to be completed during the summer months due to warmer and drier weather, we would like to relay the concerns of area residents and businesses who find that construction often blocks or greatly limits vehicle access to businesses and residential streets.

During these current and challenging economic times, local area businesses are even more dependent upon the business that visitors and travelers bring during the busy summer tourist season. In addition, having entryways to local businesses blocked due to highway improvement projects causes an inconvenience for travelers, as well as a significant loss of revenue for our businesses. The lack of clearly designated entry points for traffic through our communities, whether they are business access points or residential streets also creates unsafe conditions, as drivers must dramatically decrease their speed to carefully navigate through construction projects while impatient drivers behind them often fail to maintain a safe distance.

It is the wish of the Villages at Mt. Hood Board of Directors to establish better communication between ODOT employees/contractors and our local businesses.

We ask that during the upcoming summer months and in the future, all construction projects within our community use extra care and due diligence to designate clear entryways into local businesses and residential streets. It is our feeling the cost of simply designating a clear turning pathway with signage, such as an arrow indicating a clear pathway for vehicles wishing to exit the Highway, would be minimal and would be an appropriate requirement for all construction projects within our community, regardless of time of year.

After formal review of this request, we respectfully ask that our Villages BOD be allowed to review and comment on all plans for traffic flow prior to implementation, in order that we may inform local business leaders of your intentions to implement a better strategy for designated traffic access points during summer construction projects throughout the Villages of Mount Hood.

Finally, we would like to take this time to thank you in advance for your consideration, and we look forward to working with ODOT in the future to improve the communication process with our local business leaders.

Sincerely,

Bob Reeves, Chairman  
George Wilson, Director