

Mt. Hood PHLD
Sample Support Letter Language

Victor M. Mendez, Administrator
Federal Highways Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for the Oregon Department of Transportation's US 26 / OR 35 Mt. Hood Safety and Traveler Information Project

Administrator Mendez,

I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Public Lands Highway Division application for the Mt. Hood Traveler Information Project.

Every winter, people travel from across the state of Oregon and the nation to Mt. Hood to enjoy a wealth of recreational opportunities. The ski areas on Mt. Hood are visited by thousands of outdoor enthusiasts each year, and are major drivers of the regional economy. The Mt. Hood Highway is the only highway providing access to the ski areas in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Many travelers arrive by car, do not have extensive experience driving on snow and ice and are driving too fast for the road conditions. As a result, crashes on both US 26 and OR 35 increase significantly over the winter months. Safe access to winter recreation is critical for us all.

The US 26 and OR 35 Mt. Hood Safety and Traveler information project will reduce the high number and severity of automobile crashes on Mt. Hood, especially those that relate to inclement weather conditions, through the design and installation of a variable speed limit system and variable message signs. The project will also better incorporate real time weather conditions and camera feeds on the mountain into the Oregon Department of Transportation's award winning traveler information website, Tripcheck. Upon completion, this project will build upon the nearly \$12 million in safety improvements that ODOT has constructed or plans to construct on Mount Hood in the near-term and the \$3 million that the agency has invested in Intelligent Transportation System infrastructure along the US 26 safety corridor since 2010.

As you consider the many proposals before you, I encourage you to support this important effort to improving safety on Mt. Hood. Should you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to give me a call at....

Sincerely,

