



August 24, 2018

Honorable Mayor McEnery-Ogle and Members of Vancouver City Council:

I am the Pacific Northwest Senior Policy Manager for the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. Our mission is to advance safe walking and bicycling to and from schools; to improve the health and well-being of kids of all races, income levels, and abilities; and to foster the creation of healthy communities for all.

We are delighted to learn that Vancouver City Council has identified McLoughlin Boulevard from Reserve Street to Brandt Road, including segments of Brandt Road and Mill Plain Boulevard, as an opportunity to improve the safety for all users, including people of all ages who want to walk or ride a bicycle. Nearly a quarter of Vancouver's population is under the age of 18. Youth need a safe and reliable transportation network that will allow them to get around independently – on foot and by bicycle, on the bus, or on a mobility device.

The focus of the project is to evaluate and design a street treatment that will improve safety and accessibility for all street users, including people walking, biking, driving, and taking transit; it will improve conditions for students accessing the several schools along this corridor, from elementary through college-level. We are pleased to see that the proposal includes slowing vehicle speeds, adding and improving pedestrian crosswalks, improving the safety of intersections, and creating bicycle facilities that will be safer for students who want to ride to school and other destinations in the area. The creation of a protected bicycle route is key to the success of this corridor, and will support young students' safety (felt and real) as they navigate the roadway on a bicycle. Furthermore, [best practice design guidance](#) indicates that a reduction in travel lane width – to no more than 10 feet per lane throughout the project area – will further reduce speeds and create a safer environment for all roadway users, while having the potential added benefit of freeing up some space to accommodate residential neighbors' needs.

We are in full support of this project moving forward, including proposed pedestrian crossings and protected bike facilities that will allow people of all ages and abilities to safely use this corridor. Thank you in advance for your support of improving the safety for all roadway users in Vancouver, and for your forward thinking approach to safety on the East McLoughlin Area Safety Improvement Project.

Yours sincerely,

*Kari Schlosshauer*