



Willamette Pedestrian Coalition
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*to improve
conditions for
walking in the
Portland region*

September 11, 2009

**Mr. Rob Bernard, Project Implementation Director
TriMet
710 NE Holladay Street
Portland, OR 97232**

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Re: Willamette River Bridge Bike and Pedestrian Features

Dear Mr. Bernard:

As the region's pedestrian advocacy organization, the Willamette Pedestrian Coalition has been pleased to provide input and support regarding the design of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project throughout its ongoing process. As the Willamette River Bridge Advisory Committee considers the pedestrian and bicycle crossing design, the WPC would like to comment on a proposed ped/bike segregation discussed at the August 25, 2009 Stakeholders' Forum.

The WPC believes that bike/pedestrian paths segregated by direction rather than mode are essential to providing good connections on either side of the bridge. Allowing both bicycles and pedestrians on both north and south bridge paths will minimize out-of-direction travel for pedestrians.

Members at Large
*April Bertelsen
Todd Borkowitz
Mike Dennis
Jeanne Harrison
Lidwien Rahman
Caleb Winter*

Bridge foot traffic, particularly in summer, includes visitors to Portland and recreational walkers who would likely be deterred or confused by any diversion from the most intuitive and direct pedestrian route. Casual users may also have view preferences. The WPC supports a path use plan similar to that which is already employed on the Hawthorne, Steel, and Burnside Bridges.

Director
Steph Routh

Separating bicycle and pedestrian traffic is an important safety feature which the WPC feels strongly should be considered in path programming. However, the WPC believes separation by mode can be accomplished safely without relegating modes to opposite sides of the bridge and compromising convenient access.

We look forward to continuing our participation in the Willamette River Bridge design during this ongoing process.

Sincerely,

**Steph Routh
Director
Willamette Pedestrian Coalition**

