



Press Release

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECT APPROVED FOR POWERS

On December 1 the Oregon Transportation Commission approved \$28.3-million in funding for Safe Routes to School projects throughout Oregon. The Powers city council is pleased to announce that \$787,688 in grant funding was approved for the City of Powers Safe Routes to School construction project. The project includes construction of a curbed sidewalk along the east side of the highway from Alder Street to Fig Street, high-visibility crosswalks, and school zone signs. The project is scheduled for completion in fall 2022, but may commence as early as spring 2021.

The Powers city council initiated this project in 2019 through completion of a project identification plan with the assistance of Alta Planning & Design, a firm based in Portland, Oregon. During the planning phase, Alta and staff completed site assessments, monitored activity during school drop-off and pickup, and engaged local citizens and parents of students to identify needs for safe routes for kids to bike and walk to school. The final plan included recommendations for a newly constructed sidewalk along the highway, numerous high-visibility crosswalks at major crossings, and school zone signs in the immediate area of the schools. The plan also included recommendations to provide outreach to students on how to safely use the newly constructed routes, as well as education on how to bike safely to school. Additional target items included improvements of the high school hill pedestrian trail and construction of a high-visibility crosswalk at the trail entrance. The city council may also be considering future improvements of the unpaved rights of way along Fir Street to provide better visibility for pedestrians.

We are grateful to all of the people who made the project a success for Powers. A special thank you to the city council, Powers School District, SRTS Committee, Oregon Transportation Commission, Alta Planning & Design, Darrin Neavoll, Matt Shorb, Loree Pryce, and everyone who contributed to the project. We are excited to see this much needed project begin in our community.

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