

From Chloe Eudaly

**Portland City Commissioner**

Hello Len! Thanks for reaching out to my office. I truly enjoyed my SW Trails adventure with Don and friends. I'm so impressed by the work (and creative problem solving) SW

Trails PDX has undertaken and as someone who grew up free-range in rural Oregon I love that kids in your area have the opportunity to tromp around in nature despite living in an urban area. I understand your frustration – almost everything that happens at City Hall seems to take 10x longer than it should -- but I'm sure you know PBOT has had a lot of competing priorities and limited resources. That being said, your community has waited a long time for this safety improvement and I want to recognize and honor the work of SW Trails PDX. I've asked Chris to look into this crossing and give us a timeline. Please feel free to get back in touch if you don't hear from PBOT or my office within the next five business days.

Best Regards,

Chloe Eudaly

**Portland City Commissioner**

503-823-4682

----- Response from Chris Warner, PBOT Interim Director Mr. Gardner and Mr. Michon:

I wanted to get back to you concerning the crossing at Naito and Whitaker. Here is what Winston Sandino, who is the PBOT staff member assigned to this project, shared earlier:

“Originally the crossing at Naito/Whitaker was proposed back in 2012 when the Gibbs pedestrian bridge was being built. The crossing at this location could be designed if there was money left from the Gibbs bridge. After the Gibbs bridge was completed

there were some funds left enough to do part of the design (up to 90% design) but then we could not find funding to finish design and construct the project until just recently.

Once we found funds, we hired a consultant to start working on design. We completed design to 95% and submitted the design to ODOT for their review since this crossing will be on ODOT road system and will need their approval. When we sent the 95% plans to ODOT for their review ODOT found out that the project had been in the shelf for more than 5 years without being built. There is an ORS rule that tells ODOT to review the approval process for new signals on State highways if nothing has been done for 5 years. Now PBOT has to go through the ODOT approval process for new signals on State Hwys.

PBOT and our consultant met with them on December 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss what we need to submit for them to approve the project.

We have to submit new traffic and pedestrian data and a memo justifying the need for this specific location and the type of treatment as well. We will be collecting traffic and pedestrian information this month. After the data is collected and analyzed PBOT will write a memo that justify the signal and the crossing treatments. After we submit the memo, ODOT says it would take 6 weeks to review the memo. If ODOT approves the project then we should be able to go out to bid soon after.

I mentioned to Mr. Gardner in my last email that if the SW neighborhood could write a

letter of support for the project that would help us in our justification to the project and help get approval from ODOT.” In short, we are working through the ODOT approval process. We met with them in December to discuss how to best expedite this. ODOT told us that we need updated traffic and pedestrian data, which we will collect this month. We will then analyze and send in the request to ODOT. ODOT said that it may take 6 weeks for them to review the memo. Once ODOT approves, we will go out

to bid. As Winston has mentioned to you, it would be great to get a letter from the South Portland Neighborhood Association to help us justify the project.

I've asked the team to keep you updated and will make sure that we are moving this along as expeditiously as possible. Thanks for your advocacy and have a great day. .... **Chris Warner** | Interim Director

**Pronouns:** He/Him Portland Bureau of Transportation

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Please take a moment to thank Commissioner Eudaly for her interest in improving our SW infrastructure.

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