

Historic Milwaukie NDA

2011

Walk Safely Report

FROM HEAD TO TOE

The Historic Milwaukie NDA appreciates and embraces the goals of the Walk Safely Milwaukie Program. We are fortunate to have the infrastructure that makes walking easy and for many a daily part of life. Our neighborhood is also divided by Hwy 99E on the west and Hwy 224 on the east. It is also bisected by arterials Harrison Street and Lake Road and collector streets Washington and Monroe.

The neighborhood includes several schools: Milwaukie Elementary, El Puente bilingual, Milwaukie High, Portland Waldorf, and St. Johns Catholic. These important institutions give us opportunities to walk and also challenge us to make sure our youngest residents reach their classrooms safely.

Historic Milwaukie also includes the downtown area. Inspiring events such as the Farmers Market and First Fridays draw pedestrians to the downtown. Also attracting people to downtown are the transit center, library, city hall, many wonderful restaurants and businesses.

PUTTING OUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

The Historic Milwaukie NDA has long history of supporting walking. We have used grant money to help construct the walking track at Milwaukie Elementary. We have held many official and unofficial work parties to maintain and improve the landscaping and appearance of our downtown. We planted and maintain the traffic medians on Washington and Monroe streets.

We support and participate in the Milwaukie Daze and Umbrella parades. We help organize the 9K for K9 walk, which raises money for the Milwaukie Police Department's canine program. We are honored that the inspirational Relay for Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society chooses Milwaukie High as one of its venues.

We support present and past grant applications for bicycle and pedestrian improvements, including the present application for a bike/ped bridge over Kellogg Lake that would connect our NDA with Kronberg Park and the Island station NDA and past applications such as the one to make improvements to 17th Ave.

DON'T SIDE STEP THE ISSUES

To include the entire neighborhood, we attempted a three fold approach to getting input on the important issues regarding walking and biking in and around the Historic Milwaukie neighborhood. We dedicated the majority of an NDA meeting to brainstorm and record our thoughts. Thanks to JoAnn Herrigel for leading the discussion and recording our input. We also personally delivered dozens of surveys to Historic Milwaukie residents. The responses have been tallied and will be used to develop our Walk Safely proposals and make requests to ODOT, Milwaukie code enforcement, and other agencies for improvements. Third, we contacted Milwaukie Elementary, Portland Waldorf and St Johns Catholic School. We consider this report to be the beginning of a work in process and we welcome all additional input, ideas, and especially energy.

DOWN TRODDEN

Peak periods of activity in our neighborhood include a chaotic mix of students walking to and from school, parents transporting their children, high school students driving, and school busses transporting the rest. Safety of students walking to school is our top priority. We believe that a safer walk to school will result in fewer parents feeling compelled to transport their children resulting in even less traffic.

Evening sporting events at Milwaukie High coupled with a shared parking agreement with St Johns Catholic Church create demand for crossing Washington Street. Many popular events like football games occur after sunset and during inclement weather, making crossing Washington Street precarious.

Due to our location between two major highways, our neighborhood streets are used for regional traffic. Failure or near failure of key intersections inspire efficient motorists to find the route that is quickest or has the least amount of waiting time. Future projections for regional growth, and transit projects, will add to the problem.

Crossing the highways 224 & 99E present a significant barrier. Walkers compete with left hand turning vehicles for "green" time. "Count down" walking signals have helped those that are spry, but those with limited abilities are faced with a difficult situation.

TAKING APPROPRIATE STEPS

The Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood is considering a two fold approach considering safety first but also focusing on making walking more pleasant. We consider the safety of our children to be paramount. We also want to make walking easier and more pleasant for people of all abilities. We would like to partner with Milwaukie's NDA's, the City of Milwaukie, other government agencies, schools, business, and any other organization with similar goals. Walking improvements should be considered as part of all construction projects, street resurfacing projects, and included in short and long term planning decisions.

PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL

We recognize the importance of bicycle transportation in our NDA and throughout the city. We support improving connections to existing trails. We want to make sure that traffic calming and pedestrian improvements compliment and not interfere with bicycling.

We recognize the importance of connectivity and support improvements to 17th Ave, to connect our neighbor hood and the soon to built trolley trail to the Springwater Corridor and the Portland neighborhoods. This connection will also encourage bicyclists to ride to Milwaukie and experience our riverfront, farmers market, and downtown.

We also are concerned about bicycle safety and recognize the construction of light rail could potentially create difficult crossings. We plan to work with TriMet to make sure that they use the best design and materials available to make crossing for riders of all abilities safe and easy.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

To help us in our quest for suitable projects we respectfully ask for assistance from our cities talented team of engineers and other professionals for recommendations.

- 1) Examine walking routes to Milwaukie Elementary/El Puente School, focusing on crossing collector and arterial streets. Make recommendations for ideal locations of cross walks that are convenient and likely to be used. We would welcome suggestions that include new technology and design improvement to make the crosswalks safer.
- 2) Make recommendations for additional traffic calming methods to encourage motorists to stay on major streets and resist the temptation to “cut through” on local streets, especially 28th & 29th between Washington and Monroe.
- 3) Examine ODOT’s existing signage, technology, and other conditions. Coordinate with Historic Milwaukie and other NDA’s to present to them (ODOT) a detailed and comprehensive list of problems.
4. Work with members of Historic Milwaukie NDA that have horticultural experience, to develop a street tree plan. So when construction projects built in the region need to replace trees, we have the places for them.
5. Develop plans for walking corridors with amenities such as benches, lighting, trash receptacles, and drinking fountains.
6. Develop a program to assist property owners, both residential and commercial to up grade the existing side walks and build new ones.

WALKING A THIN ORANGE LINE

In 2015 TriMet Plans to open the Orange line. The light rail line will stretch from Park Ave, just south of Milwaukie to Portland State. This project will bring with it many opportunities and challenges for walking safely. The project has just entered final design. It is up to us the residents of Historic Milwaukie, and the entire community to stay engaged, keep involved, and make sure that all those boarding the train will be able to walk safely.

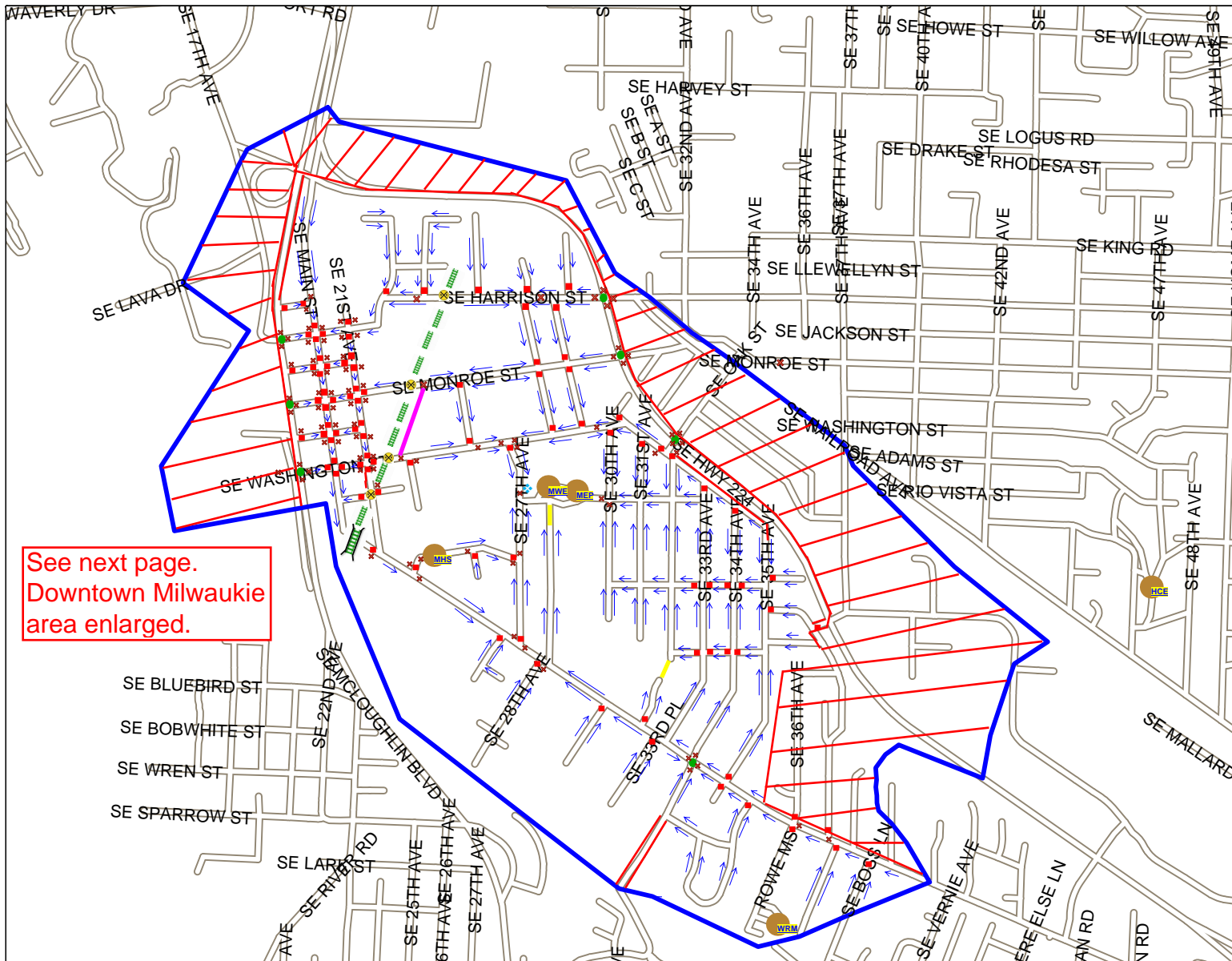
October 2010 Survey of Historic Milwaukie		
Do you bike or walk in the neighborhood? How often?		
	N/A	x
	No	xxx
	Yes daily,	xxxxxxxxxxxx
	Yes 3-5 times per week	xxxx
	Yes Once per week	xx
Where do you walk most often?		xx
	N/A	xx
	Neighborhood/Downtown	xxxxxxxxxxxx
	Transit Center	x
	Milwaukie Elementary	xx
	Multiple Neighborhoods	x
	River	x
	Market Place	xxx
Would you walk more if improvements were made?		
	N/A	
	No	xxxxxxxxxxxx
	No, but walk would be better	xx
	Yes	xxxxxxx
	Would bike more	x
If you bike, where do you go?		
	N/A	xxxxxxx
	Neighborhood	xxx
	Downtown	xxxx
	Spring water Trail	xxxxx
	Sellwood	xx
	Market Place	xxx
	Downtown Portland	xx
	River front	x
What are your biggest traffic concerns and where?		
	N/A	x
	Speeding	xxxx
	Tight turn on 28th & Monroe	x
	Traffic cutting through	xx
	Crossing 224 with left turning traffic	xxxx
	No bike lanes/ narrow road	x
	Main St & Harrison	x
	Speeding on Washington	xxx
	Blind right turn @ 24th and Harrison	x
	Automobiles parked too close to corners, impede driver's view of pedestrians	xx
	Speeding on Monroe and around schools	x
What are your biggest challenges when it comes to walking our neighborhood streets?		

Rough side walks	xxx
Personal Safety	xx
boredom	x
Broken sidewalks Monroe N of St Johns	xx
Overgrown vegetation	xxx
Crossing Harrison @ 24th	x
Motorists not stopping at cross walks	x
Litter/Lack of trash receptacles	x
Crossing the busy streets	x
Crossing 224	x
Speeding	x
Not enough lighting	x
Safety concerns with groups of people haning out	x
H2O build up at ADA curb cuts	
Utility poles in side walk	x
What other things could be changed that would improve your livability in the neighborhood?	
Sports bar downtown	x
Good Neighborhood already	x
Bike Lanes	x
Lighted walking corridors	x
Quiet Zone (trains)	x
Speed bumps	x
Speed bump on Monroe	x
More school zones	x
Reduce speed of emergency vehicles	x
Better street maintenance	x
Tree trimming	x
Cleaning storm drains	x
More trees	xx
More trash receptacles	xx
Attend to barking dogs	x
Slow/divert traffic on Washington	x
Median at 27th and Washington	x
What suggestions do you have?	
Narrow side walk, in front of Waldorf school	
Better defined bike lanes	
Cross walk on N side of Harrison 99E	
Side walks made smoother	
Make Down Town more of a destination	
Greater retail variety in down town	
Transit Center scary	
Stop Sign at 27th & Washington	
\$\$ for side walk repair	
Resting benches	
Wider Sidewalks	
Block Homes	
Volkswalk type of program	
Control of non native species	

Water collecting in ADA ramps at corners	
Second has smoke Downtown and Market Place	
Recommendations for Scott Park	
Injured down town after tripping on broken side walk.	
Rain gardens on Washington to slow traffic	
Speed bumps	
Creative signage	
More frequent police checks for speeding & other issues	
More leisurely walking/biking paths	
Beautify the riverfront	
Make mainstreet more interesting/ street fairs etc.	
Improve connectivity along the East side of McLoughlin	

North Clackamas School District District Map

MILWAUKIE ELEMENTARY



See next page.
Downtown Milwaukie
area enlarged.

Walk Safely Milwaukie Exercise Historic Milwaukie NDA

Pedestrian/Bike Focused Questions

**Where are the most pleasant streets for walking and riding a bike in your community?
What aspects of street design or other surrounding features make these streets pleasant
for walking and biking?**

- The Riverfront
- Main Street – fun to window shop, cute downtown area, safe sidewalks
- Bike along main Street to the Springwater Trail – this is not pretty
- Lake Road – good to walk on

**What are the destinations that you can walk or bike to from Historic Milwaukie? Can you
imagine others?**

Current destinations:

- **Milwaukie Market Place**
- **Ledding Library**
- **Farmers Market**
- **Coffee Shops**
- **Riverfront**
- **Elk Rock Island**
- **Sellwood**
- **Downtown Portland**
- **Schools**
- **Church**

Potential destinations:

- Nice, in town grocery store (so wouldn't have to go to Sellwood)
- Walking riding more on Lake Rd
- Biking along 17th to get to Sellwood Gap (or just Sellwood)
- Ride along Railroad Ave to get to Sunnyside area and MAX (instead of using King Rd)

**Describe the pedestrian patterns you observe in the neighborhood today (i.e. amount of
pedestrian activity, age range of pedestrians, streets being used, destinations, social
behaviors like visiting with neighbors, etc).**

- Kids walking

- People jogging
- People with grocery bags coming back from the Mil Market Place
- Groups and individuals walking along the Riverfront **and up 17th Ave**
- Groups and individuals walking along Main Street to coffee shops and restaurants

What physical improvements and features could make walking and biking safer and/or more pleasant on other streets in your neighborhood?

- Better lighting
- Wider sidewalks (unbelievably thin sidewalks in certain areas – like 29th Ave)
- Nicer yards to look at
- Garden spots/swales and benches along the route
- Signage improvements (small green bike signs are not widely popular)
- Don't put power poles in the center of sidewalks
- More garbage cans
- More bike streets (bike boulevards like in Portland)
- More bike racks (Market Place, schools...)
- For both sides of McLoughlin Blvd – insert green buffer between walker/biker and road
- Increase timing on cross walks on 224

Which intersections are the most pedestrian-unfriendly? What improvements might improve them?

- 24th and Harrison (east bound traffic can't see pedestrians)
- 25th and Monroe (big dip in the road by Church)
- 17th Ave near Lava Drive – not way to get to east side of 17th safely
- 21st – south of Washington there are no crosswalks
- Add Green painted bike refuge on 17th Ave at 224 on ramp
- 30th and Washington – scary
- Oak and Campbell – dark and dangerous

Do you know what other neighborhood residents would say are the largest barriers to walking and biking in the neighborhood?

- Dark
- McLoughlin is scary to cross
- Too much Traffic

What makes walking around your neighborhood interesting? Are there things that can be done to make it more interesting?

- Nicer yards to look at
- Garden spots/swales and benches along the route

Can baby strollers and wheelchairs manage in the current walking environment?

Didn't really raise this – but: note comments about thin sidewalks and sidewalks with power poles in the center. I would add lack of wheelchair ramps in some locations.

Are bike racks provided near to businesses or other destinations?

- Some places – but see above for other locations needed

Driver Focused Questions

Describe traffic problems and general driver behavior in your neighborhood? Are their specific locations where driver behavior is particularly problematic?

- Cut through traffic is a problem because of the speed of cars and just their presence
- Lake Road near 21st – high speed area
- Monroe

Which streets have speeding issues?

Didn't really raise this....

What types of enforcement, educational programs, or street design projects could improve driver behavior and/or calm traffic in these locations?

- Speed bumps and chicanes
- Add lights – just so it's safe – not so it's all lit up
- Medians are good to slow people down – would like more
- Speed bumps in a series seem effective since drivers hit a consistent speed and just stay there
- Narrow streets make cars slow down
- Add crosswalks on Lake – only one is on Willard
- Bad visibility on Lake near hill (location???)

Where are traffic-calming devices installed? Are these effective?

- 32nd speed humps (effective)
- 37th speed humps (don't seem necessary)
- Medians on Wash and Monroe (effective)

Community Involvement

Who is involved in assessing the walkability of the neighborhood? Have schools, businesses, or other community groups provided input? How were these people involved?

- Residents mostly giving input

Who should be involved:

- Schools
- Businesses
- Apartment managers/residents

How could additional community members or organizations be invited to join this conversation?

Didn't discuss this.

Dear Neighbor,

The Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood Association needs your help. We are collecting information so that we can apply for projects to make our neighborhood safer to walk and bike. Your participation in this informal survey will help us improve the livability of our neighborhood. This is your chance to have a say. Use the back if necessary.

Do you bike or walk in the neighborhood? How often?

Where do you walk most often?

Would you walk more if improvements were made?

If you bike, where do you go?

What are your biggest traffic concerns and where?

What are your biggest challenges when it comes to walking our neighborhood streets?

What other things could be changed that would improve your livability in the neighborhood?

What suggestions do you have?

There are three ways to return your survey.

- 1) You can drop it in the boot in the carport at 11416 SE 27th Ave.
- 2) You may also leave it in the box on the front porch of 2825 SE Washington
- 3) Mail it to Historic Milwaukie NDA PO Box 220131 Milwaukie, OR 97269.

Please return by Oct 10th.

We are looking forward to getting your feedback and making improvements to the Historic Milwaukie Neighborhood. If you would like to be kept up to date please add your contact information.

Name

Phone

Email

FYI, meetings are the 2nd Monday of every month @ 6:30pm @ the Pond House, 2515 SE Harrison.

