Villages at Mt. Hood

A Clackamas County *Complete Communities* Village

ODOT Transportation Enhancement Program
355 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Attn: Pat Fisher

Re: Letter of Support for
Villages at Mt. Hood - US 26 Pedestrian Path and Street Landscape - Phase I
application for 2009-2011 Funding from Transportation Enhancement Program

Please consider this letter an expression of strong support from the Board of Directors of The Villages at Mt. Hood for the application from the Barlow Trail Association, to provide improved pedestrian walkways and street landscaping along US 26 in the Mt. Hood Corridor.

The citizens of this mountain-recreation community have recently gone the extra length to engage with Clackamas County and become a "village" in the new governance program the county created. This empowers these citizens to make significant improvements in their community by better utilizing and focusing the resources of Clackamas County.

The Villages at Mt. Hood greatly needs safe and usable paths. Students need safe, accessible, all weather paths for going to school, to the Police Activity League's Youth Activity Center, and to local business establishments. Adults currently find it difficult to walk to the local stores and businesses, and wish to avoid short car trips. The associated street landscape improvements will significantly improve the rural/mountain character for not only the residents but also the visitors and the large volume of through traffic.

The proposed Mountain Express Bus pedestrian waiting areas will enhance pedestrian/passenger safety and further encourage residents of the Portland Metro Area to use walking and mass transit to access the recreation areas of the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Sincerely

Rick Applegate
Chair
Villages at Mt. Hood Board of Directors