

# Bicycle and pedestrian improvements being made along Barbur Boulevard this summer

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

This past month, a variety of improvements began along portions of Barbur Boulevard making the state highway safer for all bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users. More improvements will be made in the next few months, according to a state spokesperson.

State transportation workers have been restriping travel lanes to provide more consistent lane width, trimming vegetation to improve visibility, and enhancing lighting along the busy route.

"Be prepared for lane closures at all times of the day or night," said Don Hamilton, the Oregon Department of Transportation public information officer. "The project will continue to require intermittent lane closures, stopping traffic at times."

"We plan to close the left turn lane from northbound Barbur to businesses immediately north of Barbur's southern intersection with Capitol Highway," Hamilton said.

An electronic speed feedback sign on northbound Barbur was added in July right before the Vermont and Newbury Street bridges.

"Bicyclists will like the speed reduction restriped bike lanes which add buffers in several locations," Hamilton said. "This will only



Riders boarded the 12-Barbur bus at Capitol Hill Road in January 2015. (Photo courtesy of Metro)

happen where the roadway width allows it safely. Some parking will be removed."

A buffered bike lane is a standard bike lane with a designated cushion that offers additional separation between bicyclists and vehicles.

Hamilton said that new green bike lane markings will be painted at several intersections to increase visibility where vehicles must yield to bikes before crossing the bike lane.

"This includes green bike boxes at the Barbur and Terwilliger intersection," said Hamilton. "We will also mark bike lanes through long intersections such as at the Crossroads and Terwilliger."

According to the state transportation bureau, these improvements come from the findings of a road safety audit conducted in July 2015. The state will implement more than 80

percent of the audit recommendations this summer. The source of funding for other improvements hasn't yet been identified.

In the past four years, the bureau

has spent \$8 million to improve safety on Oregon Highway 99W (Barbur Boulevard) in the City of Portland and Washington County.

This includes rapid flash beacons in several locations to alert motorists when pedestrians are crossing. Other improvements have included pedestrian islands, flashing bicycle beacons on the Newbury and Vermont Bridges, and sidewalk improvements.

"Additional safety improvements on Barbur are planned for the next few years," Hamilton said. "The current work is scheduled for completion by October."

For more information, and plans for future improvements, visit [www.barbursafety.org](http://www.barbursafety.org).

## Capitol Highway funding

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"For reasons that are unclear," Brown wrote, "the Capitol Highway project was not included in the final Transportation Package. Instead this project ended up being included in an unrelated budget bill [funded by lottery proceeds]."

"Lottery funds traditionally have been spent on schools, healthcare, and services for veterans and seniors."

Brown said she was going to veto

the Capitol Highway project because of this issue.

"In the past week," the letter went on, "I've received significant input from a wide range of constituencies since providing the veto notice. It's clear that the Capitol Highway Safety Improvement project is a good project and should be funded."

"Thanks again to all," Lyons wrote the community. "We hope to see everyone soon as the city approaches 30 percent design on the project." According to the city bureau of transportation, this will happen in the fall.

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