

Oregon Department of Transportation  
ATTN: Mark Buffington  
350 W Marine Dr.  
Astoria, OR 97103

Cc: City of Wheeler  
City Manager  
P.O. Box 177  
Wheeler, OR 97147

1/17/19

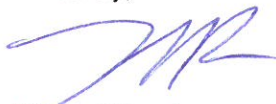
Mr Buffington:

I write you today as the chairperson for the Safety Solutions Team for First Student Rockaway Beach, school transportation contractor for Neah-Kah-Nie School District. Our team has identified a safety concern that we believe is being caused through external factors under jurisdiction of ODOT at and/or near the intersection of Hwy 101 & Hemlock St in Wheeler, OR. Observations and considerations are noted below:

- Consistent school bus red-light violations at this specific location
- Observed elevated levels of speeding among the public vehicles in the vicinity of the location
- Factors including but not limited to a downgrade going into a new speed zone, multiple regulatory speed signage only after moving into a new speed zone, and moving from a 25MPH into a 45MPH with no transition speed (south end of Wheeler on Hwy 101 has incremental increases in speed, north end at location of concern does not).

At First Student, the safety of the children we transport is paramount. The Hwy 101 & Hemlock student stop has over time become a place of growing safety concern and we would like to appeal to ODOT for help improving the safety here for the students we transport and for the community as a whole. Please consider the concerns and antecedents we have brought to you and count First Student as a partner in keeping our roadways safe. If you require any further information regarding our concern, please contact us at 503-355-2008.

Sincerely,



Michael Reed  
Chairperson, SST/First Student

