



711 SE Grand Ave  
Portland, OR 97232  
503.230.9862  
www.altaplanning.com

January 31, 2011

Noelle Studer-Spevak  
Campus Sustainability Office  
Portland State University  
1600 SW 4th Ave, Ste. 110  
Portland OR 97201

**Re: PSU STARS Application – Letter of Support**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to submit a letter on behalf of Alta Planning + Design in support of the Initiative for Pedestrian and Bicycle Innovation at Portland State University. IBPI fills a unique niche in the pedestrian and bicycle planning, design and engineering profession, offering many innovative services:

- Cutting-edge bicycle and pedestrian research, such as Dr. Jennifer Dill's "Bike GPS study" that demonstrated the value of low-traffic bikeways; Dr. John Gliebe's work with Metro (the Portland region's elected regional government) to integrate bicycles into the regional traffic model; and evaluation efforts for the City of Portland's Safe Routes to School program and demonstration facilities like bike boxes, cycle tracks, and buffered bike lanes.
- Training for active professionals on timely bicycle and pedestrian issues, ranging from introductory week-long intensive basics courses to advanced special topics in planning, design, and engineering. This is particularly important because most urban planning programs in the nation do not include training on nonmotorized transportation. Courses are taught in most cases by active professionals in the field, offering participants the benefit of unparalleled real-life experience.
- Technical manuals aimed at professionals that advance the field, such as the Bicycle Boulevard Guidebook that defined essential and optional design elements for low-traffic bikeways designed to appeal to a wide variety of user types and offer a low-stress bicycle experience.
- IPBI is a force for cultural exchange. New for 2011, the IBPI is offering PSU students the opportunity to learn about the world's best bicycling infrastructure firsthand through the Netherlands study tour. IBPI also partners closely with First Stop Portland to arrange for site tours, lectures, and meetings between international delegations visiting Portland to learn about green initiatives, including bicycle and pedestrian innovations. IBPI has also created materials for self-guided tours of innovative bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Portland.
- IBPI fosters academic excellence and supports the development of promising young bicycle and pedestrian professionals by offering five community-sponsored scholarships for masters and Ph.D. candidates in the

Urban Studies and Urban and Regional Planning programs who intend to pursue a career in pedestrian and bicycle transportation.

In short, IBPI offers a completely unique bridge between the academic, private and public sectors, and tangibly advances the field of bicycle and pedestrian transportation through research, information sharing, professional development, supporting young and established scholars, and serving as a clearinghouse for technical and policy guidance. Portland, Oregon, and the nation are richer for IBPI's formation.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Jessica Roberts  
Programs Manager  
Alta Planning + Design