

March 23, 2007

Mr. Fred Hansen
General Manager, TriMet
4012 SE 17th Ave.
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Mr. Hansen,

On Saturday afternoon, March 10, I was riding my bike south on the I-205 bike path, preparing to turn west on East Burnside. It was raining lightly so I was being really careful crossing the MAX tracks. I am an experienced, safe, rider but I went down on the tracks. I ended up in the Providence emergency room with my upper arm (humerus) fractured in three places. I thought it was just my bad luck but several days later received a call from a friend. He told me that he had seen a TriMet employee putting grease on those tracks. When he stopped to ask about it, he was told that they grease the tracks to keep the noise level down. If I had known this, I would have walked across the tracks.

As a member of Portland's Bicycle Advisory Committee and Community Liaison of the Portland Wheelmen Touring Club and Portland Velo, I am very concerned about bicycle safety. In order to keep other cyclists from having this same problem, I would like to see some sort of signage or warning to cyclists. Or maybe you could stop greasing the tracks where a cyclist might pass.

Please let me know if there is a mutually acceptable solution to this problem. Thank you for looking into this.

Sincerely,

Sharon Fekety
5858 SW Riveridge Lane, #22
Portland, OR 97239
503-224-8886

cc: Roger Geller, Bicycle Coordinator, city of Portland
Jonathan Maus, bikeportland.org
Carlo Delumpa, Portland Velo