



RIDGEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

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Ridgeview High School
Senior Government Class
4555 SW Elkhorn Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

May 9, 2025

Redmond City Council
411 SW 9th Street
Redmond, OR 97756

Dear Members of the Redmond City Council,

We are writing on behalf of the senior government class at Ridgeview High School. As part of our Community Action Project, we have chosen to focus on a pressing issue that affects our community: traffic congestion and safety concerns at two specific intersections in Redmond—SW 35th Street & Highland Avenue and SW Helmholtz Way & Highway 126.

Many local drivers and community members have expressed concern about these intersections, reporting frequent accidents, near misses, and significant delays. These problem areas have become daily challenges for residents, particularly students who commute to Ridgeview High School. We believe that improvements at these intersections could enhance both the efficiency and safety of traffic flow in Redmond. Our project aims to analyze the causes of the issues at these intersections and explore potential solutions. We are currently compiling data and considering various policy proposals, including the installation of roundabouts or revised traffic signal patterns. We hope our research and recommendations will contribute to the city's ongoing efforts to improve public safety and infrastructure.

To better understand the impact of these intersections on our peers, we created and distributed a survey to Ridgeview students. The survey asked eight questions about student experiences related to delays, stress, and safety at these intersections. Since many students cross either SW Helmholtz or SW 35th Street daily—whether traveling to school, work, or friends' homes—this survey gave them an opportunity to voice their concerns and share ideas for improvement. One of the questions invited students to consider the effectiveness of roundabouts and whether they believe roundabouts could provide a safer and more efficient traffic solution at these locations.

In addition to our survey research, we have also spoken with local residents and business owners. One community member, Jeff and Julie Larkin, who owns Larkin Valley Ranch on the corner of Helmholtz Way, shared his experience with traffic in the area. He described regular congestion stretching past his property and noted multiple incidents where vehicles struck his fence as a result of difficult turns and limited visibility. His comments reinforced what many of us have experienced firsthand—long waits, traffic buildup, and dangerous turning conditions. Many of our classmates cross these intersections daily, and it is not uncommon to wait three to five minutes just to make a turn. These delays, combined with safety hazards, illustrate the need for meaningful changes at these sites.

Sincerely,
The Senior Government Class
Ridgeview High School

“It’s a Great day to be a Raven!”