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**April 23, 2020**

Mayor Angela Birney and Redmond City Council  
City of Redmond  
15760 NE 85th Street  
Redmond WA 98052

**RE: 2020 May Bike Month Proclamation & Open Streets for Social Distancing**

To: Mayor Birney and Council:

The Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association encourages the City of Redmond to proclaim May 2020 Bike Month. Our 35 members represent over 100,000 people who come to Redmond every day for work or school. Last year, over 3,000 people biked to work or school every day to Redmond, and that number is poised to grow with improvements to the East Lake Sammamish Trail, the Redmond Central Connector, and the Eastrail.

Now more than ever, riding a bike is a safe way to get exercise and stay healthy. Many of our essential workers use a bike to get to their jobs at hospitals and grocery stores. Recognizing May as Bike Month celebrates the importance of bikes to staying healthy and socially distanced, along with the City's investments in safe bike routes. It also joins Redmond with cities across the country and the national League of American Bicyclists who are doing the same.

### **Open Streets in Redmond - Safe, stress free space to walk and bike**

Yet as King County has announced trails closed to all but essential workers, Redmond residents would benefit from more space to bike. We strongly urge the City of Redmond to open streets in Downtown and Overlake. Redmond residents continue to use trails even though they are closed. Bike use is up 300% from February to March on the Sammamish River Trail.

Cities like Seattle and Oakland facing similar challenges have launched Stay Healthy streets. These policies allow deliveries and local car traffic but allow people to walk in the street and restricts through car traffic. It creates a safe amount of space for residents to socially distance and get exercise.

Streets like Cleveland, NE 79<sup>th</sup> st, NE 95<sup>th</sup> st, 188<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, 162<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE, 150<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, and NE Turing st could be perfect opportunities provide spaces to walk and bike while playgrounds and trails are closed. Beyond the COVID-19 crisis, the City should prioritize biking and walking on these streets with as traffic returns.

Declaring May Bike Month and opening streets to walk and bike go hand in hand and help make Redmond a healthy, connected community. Our member organizations strongly support the City of Redmond taking these actions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Hovenkotter".

Kirk Hovenkotter,  
Executive Director, Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association