MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release

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Vigil for World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

PORTLAND, OR-- On November 20th, Oregon and SW Washington Families for Safe Streets, an advocacy group comprised of families of victims of road traffic violence, are holding a vigil to honor those who have lost their lives on our streets for World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Over 400 people have been killed on Oregon streets in 2016 alone. The vigil will utilize an art installation comprised of over 400 pairs of shoes to represent every person that has died in a traffic crash this year.

Road deaths and injuries are sudden, violent, traumatic events, the impact of which is long-lasting, often permanent. The burden of grief and distress experienced by this huge number of people is all the greater because frequently the victims are young, because many of the crashes could and should have been prevented, and because the response to road death and injury and to victims and families is often inadequate, unsympathetic, and inappropriate to the loss of life or quality of life.

Kim Stone, one of the founding members of OR Families for Safe Streets, explains the visuals behind the art installation.
"My hope is that everyone who sees these empty shoes will be reminded that someone still mourns a loved one who no longer walks among us."

The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) is observed on the third Sunday of November each year by an increasing number of countries on every continent around the world. This day is dedicated to remembering the many millions killed or injured in road crashes, their families and communities, as well as to pay tribute to the dedicated emergency crews, police and medical professionals who daily deal with the traumatic aftermath of road death and injury.

This day has also become an important tool for governments and all those whose work involves crash prevention or response to the aftermath because it offers the opportunity to demonstrate the enormous scale and impact of road deaths and injuries as well as the urgent need for concerted action to stop the carnage.

Event: World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims Vigil
When: Sunday, November 20, 2016, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.; Press Conference 12:30 p.m.
Where: SW Portland Waterfront under the Morrison Bridge
Who: Families for Safe Streets members, families and loved ones of crash victims, Portland Fire Chief, Emmanuel Hospital Trauma Nurses.

Why: Oregon and Southwest Washington Families for Safe Streets are collecting shoes for an art installation for World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. The art installation will take place on Sunday, November 20th and will visually represent all the lives lost on Oregon roads in 2016.

About Families for Safe Streets:
Oregon and SW Washington Families for Safe Streets is comprised of victims of traffic violence and families whose loved ones have been killed or severely injured by aggressive or reckless driving and dangerous conditions in Oregon and SW Washington. Our local group is modeled after the original Families for Safe Streets group banded together in NYC in 2014 with the support of Transportation Alternatives.

We bear witness to our pain and suffering to press for the elimination of fatalities and injuries on our streets. Through our stories and advocacy, we seek cultural and physical changes on our streets and the rapid implementation of Vision Zero. We envision communities where pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles safely co-exist, and children and adults can travel freely without risk of harm – where no loss of life in traffic is acceptable.

Oregon and SW Washington Families for Safe Streets began organizing in Fall 2015 with support and guidance from the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Oregon Walks – through our members make all decisions regarding our initiatives.

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