

From: Patty Katz <pjmcintosh54@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 10:10 AM
To: police@bendoregon.gov; Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>
Cc: Patty McIntosh Katz <pjmcintosh54@gmail.com>
Subject: Mt Washington Traffic Accident

I am writing to voice my concerns and to appeal to those who can make a difference about the increase of speeding vehicles at the intersection and beyond at the MW/Archie Briggs intersection.

First, I am so sad about the fatality that occurred at that very dangerous corner where the Archie Briggs trail intersects the road. If this section of the road were clearly marked with a speed sign, some type of pedestrian walkway for pedestrians to cross on the trail, that would provide at least a little bit of traffic behavior modification. If these measures were done would these people still be alive? I know that's a hard question to answer, but as a local jurisdiction, you must feel a responsibility to try to figure out how to mitigate that corner now that it's taken a life.

I do have planning experience. We are both retired and I am a retired campus planner of 20 years. My projects used to be transportation planning for an Oregon university and so I am very familiar with all aspects of transportation issues, albeit in our campus boundary but also I have to work with the City to "co-manage" or find solutions within a 100 foot setback of our boundary. We had severe bicycle/pedestrian accidents on our campus, and as the manager I felt a real responsibility to win back the confidence of our residents to ensure student, faculty and staff safety.

Second, our house is just above the Mt. Washington/Archie Briggs intersection. On a daily basis we see the traffic behavior as well as drive that corner. In the summer, a lot of cars will go very fast starting about Awbrey Glen as the road is relatively straight, and then just after the North Rim entrance they'll slow a bit for the corner and then blast through the very straight portion until that next turn after the Mt. Wash/AB intersection. That's heading north. Heading south, the cars take that turn just before MW/AB and haul ass down the road. If there's a car unfamiliar with that corner, inevitably they'll take a wide berth. It is definitely more of an issue/raceway Thursday through Sunday, especially at night.

I felt the need to write my concerns because I know that a local jurisdiction has to consider public comment or feedback in their planning activities. Not that it sways a big decision, but you must consider the comments because it's how our land use laws were developed in Oregon.

Lastly, the initial intention for Mt. Washington as a major street designation for the City to accommodate continued growth was most likely appropriate for the early 2000s as you grappled with very fast growth rates. However, what it has become is an alternate bypass for those too impatient to use the bypass that itself has had increased thru-traffic to avoid I-5 traffic problems from Seattle to Portland. (This is my anecdotal opinion.) The number of residential homes in the area far exceed any commercial areas so maybe it is time to make this what it is, a way for residents to get safely to their homes.

I would urge you to try to mitigate that corner for safety reasons. In the summer, the little "quarter-mile race line" that is increasingly happening creates a safety issue for the MW/AB intersection but also to drive that corner safely, AND in the winter the corner is very icy due to the sun so far south that that portion of the road stays continually shady even in sunny weather.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Patty Katz
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