

From: Steve Porter <stevedporter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 1:49 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>; Susanna Julber <sjulber@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Expansion of NW Portland Avenue to 3-Lane Road

Dear Karen and Susanna,

I write to express my *vehement opposition* to the proposed expansion of NW Portland Avenue from a 2-lane road to a 3-lane road.

This is an expensive (\$13.5 million), wasteful, and damaging project that, if completed, would destroy the character of NW Portland Avenue, effectively sever the West Hills neighborhood from everything just south of Portland (including preschools, coffee shops, restaurants, and retail stores), degrade living standards for hundreds of residents along and near Portland Avenue, and introduce new threats to pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, among many other direct harms.

You are doubtless aware that, just yesterday, a pedestrian was struck by a motorist in a crosswalk on NW Newport Avenue, which features a 3-lane design. Such a hazardous road design has no place on Portland Avenue, and you may be assured that I will take any action necessary to ensure such design is never implemented on Portland.

I formally request that the expansion of Portland Avenue from a 2-lane road to a 3-lane road be eliminated from inclusion in the Transportation System Plan and that funding for the expansion be eliminated from any funding proposals and packages.

If you have any questions about this matter, you may contact me in writing.

Thank you,

Steve Porter

From: Tyrone Hazen <tyrone@greystreetdesign.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 3:15 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>; Susanna Julber <sjulber@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Portland Avenue expansion

Hi there,

My name is Tyrone Hazen and I own a property on Portland Ave. I was recently informed that there are discussions around expanding it to a three lane road. I wanted to voice my opinion and let you know I am vehemently opposed to this proposition.

Please let me know what options I have to voice this concern to the appropriate parties.

Thank you,

Tyrone Hazen
(480) 620-4057
tyrone@greystreetdesign.com

From: Richard Stinson <stinson.rich@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 7:36 PM
To: Karen Swirsky
Subject: Portland Ave expansion

Dear Karen Swirsky,

I just heard about the possible expansion on NW Portland Ave from a 2 lane road to a 3 lane. As a resident who lives on that stretch of Portland Ave, I wanted to express my strong opposition to this plan. It does not seem to make financial sense for the city to spend the money on that considering the other areas of town that have much worse traffic problems/road condition. I also feel this will have a severe negative effect of the current residence and wildlife in the area and potentially worsen the speeding problem that currently exists.

I hope you take my voice, and that of the majority of the neighborhood, into consideration and reconsider a better use for the funds allocated to the city.

-Your concerned neighbor,
Richard Stinson

From: Candace Wray <wraycandace@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 7:30 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Portland Avenue widening

Good evening,

I am reaching out to you to voice my opposition to the widening of Portland Avenue into a 3 lane road.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,
Candace Wray

From: Michi Sato <michisato5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 5:52 PM
To: Karen Swirsky; Susanna Julber
Subject: Portland Ave

I have just received information that the Bend Planning Department is considering widening Portland Ave

to 3 lanes.

I am seriously opposed to this proposal.

Widening Portland Ave to 3 lanes would increase the passing/speeding of vehicles on that road (already an issue).

It would increase the danger to pedestrians and cyclists that use that road.

This is a residential neighborhood. Widening to 3 lanes takes away the neighborhood feel.

The main traffic on Portland is the college traffic. If you increase Portland to 3 lanes, the Newport Ave traffic will divert up to Portland. Newport Ave is the main artery to NW Crossing and all the developments out towards Shevlin.

We should be promoting a better bike line and bus system on to decrease the car traffic on Portland Ave. I am visiting in Victoria BC right now and the bike lanes here ALL OVER downtown are two lanes, side by side each direction, with a curb and/or short wall to protect bikers. This really promotes bike riding. People are riding here in the rain.

Please let me know what and when you will be meeting on this proposal, as I would like to be a part of the process and understand your reasoning behind your decisions.

Sincerely,
Michi Sato
541-280-5566

From: ron steinberg <ronotw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 8:12 PM
To: Karen Swirsky; Susanna Julber
Subject: Portland Ave.

I really think that making a three lane speedway is not the answer. Thanks 

Sent from my iPhone

From: judi hamson <judi8664@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 7:33 AM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>
Cc: Susanna Julber <sjulber@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Proposed Portland Avenue lane increase

Hello,

I reside at [REDACTED] and have just learned of upcoming discussions to consider changing our current street from a 2-lane to 3-lane thoroughfare. While we are very happy to see that the City recognizes the traffic speeding problem on our street and is working to resolve or at least mitigate this issue, we are extremely Alarmed at the idea of Adding another lane to our street.

Hopefully, as we learned at a recent open house for residents, the current attempts to 'encourage' drivers to obey the speed limit (ie: Northside bike lane, narrowing certain intersections footprints, permanent radar speed signs) will help. The best, most effective deterrent to speeding in our opinion would be Speed Bumps. We've been told that these would impede emergency response vehicles. But, how can you explain that the Olney speed bumps that were removed during recent resurfacing were Replaced by even more prominent bumps; Olney is basically an extention of Portland Avenue and is in close proximity to the hospital and other medical facilities.

Portland Avenue has a huge speeding problem. It is a dark, poorly lit street at night. Sidewalks are in disrepair. Widening our street to 3 lanes will not resolve these problems and in fact, would make our traffic problem Worse.

We are adamantly opposed to adding another lane to our already dangerous street.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judi Hamson

From: Kristi Angevine <kristiangevinemd@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 9:58 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>; Susanna Julber <sjulber@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Portland Ave

Dear Mrs. Swirsky and Mrs. Julber,

My name is Kristi Angevine and my family and I reside on Portland Avenue.

I imagine you both receive a huge volume of emails, so I will keep this brief.

Recently I have learned of a potential for expanding Portland Avenue from a two lane to a three lane road.

For a variety of reasons, this is not a only a suboptimal use of funds, but a project that would have a hugely detrimental impact on the residents nearest the expansion, as well as the entire surrounding neighborhood. This is a residential area, not a business thoroughfare. The slow paced feel, walkability, ease of bike commuting, and overall atmosphere of the West Hills community would be compromised by the change.

I speak for my family and our neighbors when I say that we are deeply opposed to the prospect of widening the road to accommodate three lanes.

If helpful, we are more than happy to participate in any future conversations that may unfold around this issue.

Sincerely,

Kristi Angevine

From: Linda Redeker <lredeker15@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 10:38 AM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>; Susanna Julber <sjulber@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Portland Ave

As a tax payer and resident owning a home on Portland Avenue I am AGAINST the widening of Portland Avenue.

Leave it a two lane road appropriate for a residential area. School children walking and riding to school; school bus stops; cyclists, walkers, disabled, and elderly.

Linda Redeker

218-202-1225

lredeker15@gmail.com

From: Judith Kopp <jrk97701@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 3:31 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Widening of Portland Ave.

Dear Karen Swirsky:

It has come to my attention that there is consideration of widening Portland Ave to a three lane road. I have owned my home on the corner of Portland Ave and Juniper st since 1986, and I like the street just the way it is! I am vehemently opposed to widening Portland Ave!

Yours

Judith R Kopp

From: Sydney Steinberg <sydney.steinberg@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 7:17 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>; Susanna Julber <sjulber@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Portland Ave.

I am extremely against widening Portland avenue into a 3-lane road. I would be very unhappy with your decision to do so.

Sydney.

From: Anthony Angevine <velo117@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 12:46 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>
Cc: Kristi Angevine <khawken77@gmail.com>
Subject: Portland Avenue Turning Lane

Dear Mrs Swirsky,

Hi. I am writing today to communicate my opposition to alterations to Northwest Portland Avenue, which include additional lanes or widening of the street, from the bridge westward to College Way.

I understand that Bend is a rapidly growing city, and that infrastructure changes and additions are necessary to accommodate such growth in a manner which benefits the community. However, I don't see how the addition of a center turn lane on Portland Avenue will benefit the community. I can only see how this will have an extremely negative impact to landowners along the length of Portland Ave. Ours, in particular, is a property with a driveway that currently rises very steeply from the street. How are we to accommodate the necessary widening of the road and still have safe access to or from the street, especially in inclement weather?

In an attempt to better understand the motivations of planners such as yourself, I spent some time over the past 24 hours since learning of this plan, to better educate myself about the surrounding community. In doing so I have reviewed the available on-line maps provided by the City of Bend which detail zoning, street maps and usage, and planned improvements to streets. I also spent some time driving the surrounding area and assessing the community. Having concluded my brief, and admittedly narrow assessment, I am now even more perplexed as to what problem the proposed change addresses. Currently, both NW Newport Avenue and NW Galveston Avenue include a turning lane from the river to NW 14th street. This seems to make sense, as both of these avenues are lined with properties that are zoned commercial. They are each lined with businesses which include gas stations, restaurants, salons, shops, etc. When one considers Portland Avenue, however, there seems to be one striking difference: a lack of commercial properties. To my knowledge there are no commercial zoned properties the length of the proposed alteration. Furthermore, while driving Eastbound along Portland Avenue from College Way, I pass no businesses. It seems quite clear that this is a residential street. In reflecting on my many trips up and down Portland Avenue, I cannot recall a time when I have been inconvenienced by another driver making a left turn, and wished for a remedy. It is my observation that the majority of traffic on this street is nonresident in origin. Therefore, for the most part, this traffic is not turning until it reaches either Wall Street to the East or College Way to the West- so how is providing a turning lane of benefit exactly?

In conclusion, please add my name to the list of those adamantly opposed to this proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Anthony Angevine

Bend, OR 97703-1521
(423) 718-6606

From: Katherine Farrell <farrellk@mail.wou.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 9:46 AM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Portland Ave

>
> Dear Karen and Susana,
>
> Good morning. My name is Kathy Farrell and I've been a homeowner on Portland Ave since 2014. My residence is located on the north side of the avenue between Juniper and College. Over the years I've noticed an increase in traffic on my end of the avenue, with many vehicles going above the posted speed limit of 25. I feel these observations are due to two factors, the first being the removal of the stop sign on 11th (more motorists choosing to travel on Portland now that there are only two stops - but then I recognize this could also be due to the increase of vehicles overall in the city), and the second with people coming downhill traveling west from Juniper (speeding).
>
> The recent updates to Portland Ave (eliminating parking and adding a bike lane on the north side of the street, striping with double lines, posting an electronic "Your Speed" device, and designating the east bound lane as a sharrows lane) have greatly reduced the speeding issue. After the project was completed I contacted Janet Hruby thanking her for taking positive and effective steps towards managing the speeding issue on Portland Avenue.
>
> This leads me to the reason why I'm contacting you. It has come to my attention that Portland Ave is being considered for expansion into a three-lane road. I'm not sure about the rational behind this consideration (perhaps you can enlighten me?), but with the information I have at the present I have to state my opposition to this plan.
>
> I previously lived in Michigan where I served on the Safe Routes to School state committee. During my tenure on this committee I was in-serviced on various techniques used for traffic calming. I'm curious if this is the objective behind the proposed expansion. I feel the recent improvements have made a difference in decreasing the speeding already (maybe it's my imagination or wishful thinking?), and there should be a definite, long-term period of data collection to see if any further intervention is necessary, particularly a project of this magnitude in cost and infrastructure.

>
> As I travel on Newport Ave, recognizing that it is a three-lane street, I see a distinct difference between the two streets, as Newport Ave has many businesses that warrant a middle turn lane so traffic doesn't back up. This is not the case on Portland as there are few if any businesses on this stretch.
>
> Again, I would like to express my opposition to this proposal. Give the recent changes/improvements some time to settle. Please don't rush into a project that may attempt to fix something that further study will find isn't broken, and then monies can be better allocated to more critical areas in the city.
>
> Thank you for your time and consideration. Feel free to contact me if you would like to continue this conversation.
>
> Kathy Farrell
> [REDACTED]
> 616.788.0107

From: Laurence Boomer <spectorize@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Widening of Portland Ave to 3 lanes

Hello:

I have lived on Portland Ave for 30 years. It is my understanding that there is a possibility of widening the road into a 3 lane road. I like Portland Ave just fine the way it is and I strongly oppose this widening of the street!

Yours

Laurence Boomer

From: PAULA WESTHUSING <pacgirlak@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 4:47 PM
To: Karen Swirsky <kswirsky@bendoregon.gov>; sjulber@bendoregon.gov
Subject: Widening of Portland Avenue

To whom it may concern

My husband and I own a home at [REDACTED] and are vehemently opposed to any proposal to Widen Portland Avenue to three lanes.

Thank you

Paula Westhusing

Sent from my iPhone

From: Faganmj faganmj@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 10:56 AM
To: Karen Swirsky kswirsky@bendoregon.gov
Subject: Portland Avenue - 3 lanes?

Dear Ms. Swirsky,

We have lived on Portland Avenue for over 40 years. We am so opposed to the thought of Portland Avenue becoming three lanes!!!

This is a neighborhood with families, children, pedestrians, bicyclists, deer and driveways. It would be ridiculous to add another lane.

Mary & Jim Fagan

[REDACTED]
Bend OR 97703

541-408-2753

faganmj@aol.com

Nov. 19, 2019

Karen Swirsky
City Bend Sr. Planner
Growth Mgmt.
709 NW Wall St #102
Bend, OR 97701

Dear Karen,

I am greatly opposed to widening Portland Ave. to a 3 Lane Rd. The traffic is heavy and many cars go over the speed limit. Few people stop when I walk with my cane to reach the sidewalk across the street. Three lanes would be very dangerous.

Sincerely,

Louise Hamby

Ms. Louise Hamby

Bend, OR 97703-1517