



Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

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www.swni.org

June 29, 2017

Commissioner Dan Saltzman
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Re: Barbur Demonstration Project

Dear Commissioner Saltzman:

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) is extremely disappointed and upset to learn that the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) have decided not to move forward with constructing the much-needed "Barbur Demonstration Project" sidewalk and bicycle safety improvements.

SW Barbur Blvd has been a community priority for pedestrian, bicycle and active transportation safety improvements for over 20 years and remains so regardless of the status of the SW Corridor Plan. It is one of Portland's designated High Crash Corridors and lacks pedestrian and bicycle facilities along about half of its length. Portland City Council adopted Ordinance 36876 as amended on August 17, 2011 dedicating \$750,000 for safety improvements on Barbur Blvd. yet it remains in much the same condition today as it was then.

With support from regional partners and organizations, community members strongly advocated for four different PBOT grant applications for the Barbur Demonstration Project. PBOT finally secured Metro Regional Flexible Funds (MTIP funds) in 2013, for design to begin in 2016 and construction to begin in 2017. After SWNI inquired about the project status we learned this week that the project is not moving forward.

PBOT must meet with and explain to SWNI and interested community organizations why the Barbur Demonstration Project isn't moving forward and discuss criteria that would make an alternative project more feasible (i.e. needed pedestrian and bicycle access for active transportation on or adjacent to Barbur that is independent of Southwest Corridor decision making). PBOT must seek community input and recommendation for an alternative project.

SWNI also insists that the full grant funding amount (\$1.9 million plus PBOT 10% match) be redirected to constructing similar pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements that connect with active transportation, shops and services on SW Barbur Blvd. We are extremely disappointed that Barbur Demonstration Project grant funds have been expended without

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constructing any physical safety improvements as directed in the Ordinance and expect that an amount equal to the original grant funds will be spent on the alternative project.

Only a third of the busy streets in SW Portland have sidewalks and our volunteers continually advocate for infrastructure that will make it safer to walk, bike and access transit and other key destinations in SW Portland. We are extremely disappointed this funded project is not moving forward and expect to fully participate in decisions on an alternative project that provides safe pedestrian and bicycle access to SW Barbur regardless of decisions yet to be made regarding the SW Corridor Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Gibbon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

John Gibbon
President, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

Cc: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Metro Councilor Bob Stacey
Rian Windsheimer, Region 1 Manager, ODOT
Neil McFarlane, TriMet
Leah Treat, Director, PBOT
Art Pearce, PBOT
Chris Ford, Metro
Ana Jovanovic, Metro West Area Manager, ODOT
Alan Lehto, TriMet
David Martin, SWNI Transportation Committee Chair