



17 July 2018

Rich Newlands

City of Portland

Bureau of Transportation

1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 800

Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: PBOT Project Number 687730, SW Stephenson Street

Dear Rich:

The Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association [ACNA] Board has voted to support the Portland Bureau of Transportation [PBOT] project number 687730 at our July 9, 2018 ACNA Board meeting. A copy of the detailed motion is attached to this letter. For the record, the vote was 7-3 in favor of the motion with only one Board member absent. As co-presidents, we did not vote because we do not have a vote, except in the event of a tie.

The approved motion specifically requests that the speed cushions be installed BEFORE the BES project 64019 begins and the project detour is initiated. We understand that speed cushion installation is only feasible during a window of time: summer months and into early October. The sense of urgency expressed regarding speed cushion installation also relates to the entire proposal for SW Stephenson, the extended shoulders, improved connectivity via sidewalks, traffic wands and crosswalks. During the comment period on July 9<sup>th</sup>, our neighbors feared that after the speed cushion installation, the remaining majority of the project would be shelved, delayed or not implemented. We request that the City of Portland provide assurances about the quality of the work and a commitment to complete the entire project proposed for SW Stephenson within a reasonable period of time, preferably less than one year.

ACNA appreciates PBOT and its representatives for responding to Arnold Creek's concerns regarding pedestrian safety in our neighborhood. A review of our neighborhood history indicates that since before 1990, Arnold Creek has been discussing with City representatives the traffic and lack of pedestrian safety in our neighborhood. Arnold Creek has reached out to the City via letters and public meetings. In May 2016, ACNA requested that the pedestrian safety concerns be addressed and the speed on SW Stephenson Street be lowered. In December 2016, in a letter to PBOT and the Bureau of

**Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association**

c/o Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. 7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219  
503-823-4592 [www.arnoldcreek.org](http://www.arnoldcreek.org) [president@acna.org](mailto:president@acna.org)

Environmental Services, ACNA outlined our neighborhood transportation priorities. This letter included a request for continuous sidewalks from Boones Ferry Road, along Stephenson and 35<sup>th</sup> to Jackson Middle School. In June 2017, ACNA sent a letter to Mayor Wheeler and other City representatives in support of BES project 64019 but expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety in our neighborhood during the eight-month closure of Boones Ferry Road and the related detour of at least 10,000 cars per day onto SW Stephenson Street.

During the last 18 months, you, as a PBOT representative, have attended three open ACNA meetings to listen, discuss and present possible solutions to the pedestrian safety issues in our neighborhood. In addition, in 2017 you and other City representatives walked in our neighborhood and listened to our concerns, witnessing firsthand the problems along Stephenson and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There were also several public involvement Open House events that you hosted or attended. We are grateful for your active involvement in our community and the proposal presented to improve SW Stephenson. Thank you for involving Arnold Creek in your process.

Our goal for the neighborhood is to have continuous sidewalks along both sides of SW Stephenson Street and SW 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue but we understand, and you have stated, that this goal is long range and likely not to happen for many years. PBOT's project 687730 is an interim solution to improve pedestrian safety and address the speeding issue. While the speed along SW Stephenson was lowered to 30 MPH last summer, drivers still exceed the speed per PBOT's traffic study conducted June 2018.

During our July 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, we heard comments from the public and Arnold Creek Board members. While there were mostly positive and favorable comments, we are communicating to you concerns held by some in our community. The primary concerns expressed at the meeting related to (1) the desire for the continuation of PBOT's focus on safety along SW Stephenson, (2) the quality and consistency of the speed cushion installations, (3) the need to receive assurances from the City of Portland that the ENTIRE proposal 687730 be implemented, (4) the aggregate number of speed cushions, and (5) the speed at which the speed cushions can be crossed. [The neighborhood expects the cushions to be comfortable driven over between 25-30 MPH.]

When several of our residents tested various speed bump/cushion installations in the Portland area, including along SE 28th, NW Cornell and SE Thorborn, they discovered some poorly and inconsistently installed speed bump/cushions. Concerns were expressed on July 9<sup>th</sup> about the ultimate success and quality of the project on Stephenson, the main street through our neighborhood. We want this project to be successful and need PBOT's assurances that the design of speed cushions along SW Stephenson will meet the highest standards, be installed with consistency and meet all City specifications..

Again, we express our appreciation to you for your early, active, and inclusive process with Arnold Creek in working towards a solution to a decades old problem. We look forward to a prompt, successful project and a continued partnership with you, PBOT and the City. Thank you again.

Very truly yours,

Grethe Larson, ACNA Co-President

Kathryn Daly, ACNA Co-President

cc: Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association Board

### **MOTION**

#### **Adopted at the Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association Board Meeting**

**July 9, 2018**

After consideration of neighborhood discussion and opinions regarding the PBOT proposal for improved safety on SW Stephenson Street, and the review of recent SW Stephenson traffic data, I move that the Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association, represented by the ACNA Board, take the following positions on the City of Portland's Bureau of Transportation Safer Shoulders Program/SW Stephenson Project, project 687730, for improvements along SW Stephenson:

1. ACNA supports the revised PBOT proposal which includes improved connectivity 'to fill in the gaps', more width on extended shoulders where possible, additional crosswalks and traffic wands for vehicle and pedestrian separation.
2. ACNA supports the revised PBOT proposal which reduces the proposed number of 'fire friendly' speed cushions from 20 to 13 on SW Stephenson, provided the cushions are properly designed and installed.
3. ACNA supports further evaluation of the effectiveness of the project by PBOT given the reduced number and increased distance between the speed cushions on the west and east ends of SW Stephenson. Such evaluation may result in additional speed cushion placements.
4. ACNA supports the collection of follow up data as to the impact of these traffic calming measures on Stephenson and neighboring streets. PBOT has agreed that an overly negative impact on neighboring streets will require mitigation on such streets.
5. ACNA requests that this project 687730 be initiated and completed before the commencement of the Bureau of Environmental Services project on Boones Ferry Road [BFR] which will close BFR during the replacement of the culvert/bridge and detour traffic onto SW Stephenson
6. ACNA authorizes our ACNA Co-Presidents to write a letter to the City of Portland expressing this position.