



CRESTWOOD

Neighborhood Association

March 31, 2020

Portland City Council
City Budget Office

Re: City of Portland FY 2020-2021 Requested Budgets

Dear Members of the Portland City Council:

We applaud your efforts to keep Portlanders safe during this Coronavirus emergency and understand that public resource needs may change to address this crisis. It's hard to predict what will happen to in the near future, and we believe that people's health and welfare is of the utmost importance right now.

Crestwood Neighborhood Association members reviewed some of the FY 2020-2021 Requested Budgets that were posted on January 31, 2020. As of today, the City Budget Office materials and process haven't been updated. We offer the following comments based on the materials on the City Budget Office website.

1. Bureau of Environmental Services (BES): We were very pleased to read about the Bureau of Environmental Services' proposed new Capital Program Project (capital projects p. 33) that would replace the Woods Creek culvert, repair outfalls and repair roadside erosion on SW Taylors Ferry Road, for a total estimated project cost of \$2,331,500. The culvert on SW Taylors Ferry Road near SW Capitol Highway has been in poor condition for years and Crestwood Neighborhood Association strongly supported street and stormwater improvements through a recently proposed Metro grant (that wasn't granted). There are significant stormwater issues in this area associated with roadway and building improvements that do not adequately manage stormwater which contributes to poor water quality in this tributary of Fanno Creek. The fence on SW Taylors Ferry Road protecting people from falling into the Woods Creek ravine has been broken for many years, so this BES project will benefit both the environment and public safety. This project is also a component of the SW Corridor Light Rail Plan stormwater management needs. Please fund and construct it as soon as possible!
2. Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT): PBOT needs to leverage the BES project funds (see above) and construct pedestrian and bicycle improvements on SW Taylors Ferry Road between SW Capitol Highway and SW 48th (TSP Project 90064.1).

As we wrote to PBOT Director Chris Warner on May 20, 2019 and September 16, 2019, these improvements will encourage people to safely access transit service and key destinations in the West Portland Town Center (aka "Crossroads"). This project is critical since there are no alternative routes without a 2-4 mile detour in any direction, and the broken fence makes it very unsafe to walk or bike on today. We were extremely disappointed that this project was not funded by Metro's competitive Regional Flexible Funds Grant in January 2020 and hope that PBOT can secure funds to leverage the BES project and construct these critical street improvements on SW Taylors Ferry Road in our neighborhood. If future stimulus funds are available for infrastructure improvements, this project would be an excellent candidate for those funds.

3. The Office of Community and Civic Life (Civic Life) needs to fully fund the seven District Coalition offices that support neighborhood associations like Crestwood. The coalitions are a critical resource that provide staff support for communications and fiscal services that result in hundreds of volunteer hours to improve livability in our neighborhood alone. That has never been more important than today. Portland's city government cannot replace the nonprofit services that support our activities. Please issue a new 5-year contract so we can be assured of continued support of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. and other district coalitions. The proposed Civic Life budget only proposes to fund the coalitions for one year. It is unacceptable that the Civic Life budget language states that these contracts will become competitive grants with new partners. The District Coalition offices including SWNI have served the neighborhood associations quite well and cost-effectively for over 40 years and while we welcome new partnerships, the new partners should enhance but not replace the District Coalition services.

Thank you for considering these comments as you deliberate on the City of Portland's Requested FY 2020-2021 budgets.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tony Hansen
President, Crestwood Neighborhood Association

Cc: Marianne Fitzgerald, Vice President, Crestwood NA
Sylvia Bogert, SWNI Executive Director