

April 18, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Portland City Council
Portland City Hall – 1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As a career urban and environmental planner, it is beyond my comprehension that the City would allow the PAM to trespass further on the SW Madison Street Corridor extending from the river to SW 11th Avenue. Our building, the Eliot Tower, preserved that passageway from SW 10th to SW 11th Avenues, but the PAM now wants to eliminate it during certain times. This is slap in the face to its patrons, of which there are a large number who live in our building and others nearby. This is not simply a NIMBY reaction, as the PAM would like to frame it. ***The City's own West Quadrant Plan identifies the cultural area as an important pedestrian-dominated zone. Policies of the plan encourage enhancement of pedestrian access (see TR2 Action). This documents that the public interest is to preserve and enhance connectivity in and around the various cultural institutions in the area.***

The PAM is a great asset to all Portlanders, especially to those of us in the condos and apartments developing near the cultural area of the city. We have chosen to live close to the wonderful museums, PSU, and downtown commercial center because the City has chosen to make this a walkable city with great connectivity. The ability to walk easily around the city will become even more important as our density increases. Direct connectivity is especially important to us at night when many cultural activities occur in the neighborhood.

If the PAM had consideration for the public, it would design its new space to continue allowing passage through the new structure along the Madison Street Corridor, while closing access into the museum halls when it wishes. This has been done by several major art museums. Please do not allow the PAM's conceptual plan push you into a decision that does not protect the public interest.

Our view of the situation is that the PAM expects city residents to be its "Friends", but has no interest in returning the favor by preserving the wonderful walkability the City has protected in the cultural district and throughout the downtown area. We implore the City Council to follow its West Quadrant Plan and protect public connectivity through the Madison Street Corridor. If this corridor is closed, my contributions to the arts will go elsewhere in the future.

Respectfully,
Margaret Johnson
1221 SW 10th Avenue