



Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100
Portland, OR 97201

RE: NE Marx St, NE Deering Dr, NE 111th & NE 112th Aves (RW #8073)

Dear members of the Commission,

June 7, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the street vacation of NE Deering Drive and NE 112th Avenue. The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is a group of diverse stakeholders whose mission is to protect and enhance the Columbia Slough and its watershed through community engagement, education, and restoration. To this end, we hold many educational events for watershed residents, and promote recreation along the waterways of the Columbia Slough.

The connection from NE 112th Avenue to the Columbia Slough is an important public access point to the waterway. This area of the Slough is called Little Four Corners and is noted for the clear springs bubbling up from the bottom, the riparian forest along its banks, and its gentle slope for canoe access. The Columbia Slough offers significant land and water trails for residents of all ages. However, there are few points at which Portlanders can actually access the Slough waterways. The connection of NE 112th to the Columbia Slough is one of those few access points, and should not be relinquished.

This access point has already been published and widely distributed in the "Columbia Slough Watershed, Nature in the City" brochure. During this street vacation process, the City should preserve public access, by either:

- leaving the section of right-of-way that connects NE 112th to the Slough intact, or
- creating a public access easement.

In closing, the Watershed Council firmly believes that public access points to the Columbia Slough, such as this access at NE 112th, need to be preserved for future generations of Portlanders to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corrina Chase".

Corrina Chase
Executive Director

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council, a non-profit-tax exempt organization, is a diverse group of stakeholders working to restore and enhance the 60 miles of waterways known as the Columbia Slough, located in Portland, Gresham, and Fairview.

All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Our IRS Tax Identification number is 03-0456181.

For more information you can visit our website at www.columbiaslough.org.