

September 13, 2017

City of Portland
Bureau of Transportation
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To whom it may concern,

I am responding to the Discussion Draft of the Transportation System Plan (TSP) Update: Stage 3: Completing the TSP

I am specifically responding to the proposals relating to SE 20th Avenue between Division and Hawthorne streets.

I am a home owner at 1906 SE 20th Avenue. I have owned this home and lived here since 1990. I am concerned that neighborhood values are not being honored or protected in the proposed actions regarding SE 20th Avenue.

SE 20th has been classified as a local service traffic street since before I have lived here. The volume and speed of traffic on SE 20th, and the lack of enforcement of traffic laws have resulted in SE 20th functioning at a different classification level, prompting several official actions to fix the problems. A barrier was installed at SE Harrison to prevent through traffic at 20th. Speed humps were installed to reduce traffic speeds in part to compensate for the construction of the 2020 apartments, which provided inadequate off-street parking for their tenants and further increased the traffic volume on SE 20th. The location of the apartments additionally complicated traffic flow at the 5-way intersection at Hawthorne. These remedial actions fail to adequately address the underlying reluctance of the City of Portland to protect and preserve neighborhood values. Yet, additional changes are being proposed which further erode livability and residential values.

The proposed reclassification as a Neighborhood collector will exacerbate already untenable problems. We have already recognized the excessive traffic volume and speed on SE 20th. We have also foregone parking on the east side of SE 20th. As it currently exists, the many young families with infants and small children residing along SE 20th are constantly at peril due to the traffic volume and speed. Parking problems have been compounded by multi-unit apartment construction and unregulated "home-share" uses. Residents frequently cannot park at their own homes. The proposed actions DO NOT address the important values citizens expect their public employees to protect. The proposed actions make the problems worse by failing to recognize the values local residents seek in choosing to live in this neighborhood.

If any changes are made to SE 20th, those changes should reduce traffic, reduce traffic speeds, eliminate truck traffic and preserve or expand parking opportunities for residents. There are substantial, convenient, appropriate alternatives to SE 20th for traffic transiting this neighborhood. However, the city has done nothing to encourage use of those alternatives. SE 11th & 12th, as well as SE Cesar Chavez are much more appropriate for traffic passing through this area. Has the city done anything to make those routes more attractive or direct traffic to those high volume routes?

SE Division has lost two lanes of traffic, severely impairing bicycle transit on that street. SE Hawthorne has sub-standard lane widths, causing continuous problems for busses and trucks using that street. The effect of these impairments is frequent traffic spilling on to other local service streets, reducing their safety and the livability of residences along them.

I strongly encourage clear thinking by the City of Portland and the Bureau of Transportation about decisions which damage neighborhoods and livability. The current plan does not consider the peripheral values of the neighborhoods which are damaged by the proposed changes. Please reconsider your proposals in light of the damages and harm to local values and characteristics which have not been quantified in your proposed actions.

Reduce traffic volume

Reduce traffic speed

Improve parking opportunities

Respect the residential character of our neighborhood along this local service traffic street!

Thank you for your consideration,

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