

September 24, 2017

To: Portland Bureau of Transportation
From: Northwest Heights Neighborhood Association
Re: Transportation System Plan (Stage 3 Update)

The Northwest Heights Neighborhood Association commends the work of the PBOT staff in responding thoroughly to the many comments on the previous Stage 3 TSP and in making the latest draft more concise. We especially appreciate the inclusion in section 3.103 (a) of the following planning tool:

- A. TDM strategies.** Explore and emphasize Transportation Demand Management strategies and tools, that function in spite of unique topographic conditions of the West Hills, to provide effective options for commuters while reducing carbon emissions, improving neighborhood livability and cycling safety, and protecting important natural resources.

We recommend, however, that this not be placed under a section headed “Western Neighborhoods Trails” which states:

Policy 3.103. Western Neighborhoods trails. Develop pedestrian-oriented connections and enhance the Western Neighborhoods’ distinctive system of trails to increase safety, expand mobility, access to nature, and active living opportunities in the area.

Our rationale: A TDM study is likely to have more relevance to the use of streets, sidewalks, and public transportation than to neighborhood trails. While some trails in Western neighborhoods may be used for transportation as part of a daily commute to work or school, this is rarely the case in the Northwest Hills, where the trails are used principally for recreation. As noted in our comments in an earlier draft, our thousands of neighbors are particularly concerned with their difficulty in reaching the center city for work, school, or other activities, especially during the morning and afternoon/evening commute.

Our suggested fix: Turn what is now subheading A (TDM strategies) into Policy 3.104 (TDM Strategies) and then include PBOT’s current subheadings B through E under that Policy 3.104.

Again, we thank you for providing us with an opportunity to comment on these drafts and for the staff’s many helpful responses to our earlier comments. We recognize how much dedicated work has been put in this effort.

/s/

Pamela S. Morris
Secretary, Northwest Heights Neighborhood Assn.

9025 NW Wood Rose Loop
Portland, OR 97229