

February 27, 2020

City of Portland
Bureau of Development Services
1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 5000
Portland, Oregon 97201

Subject: Case No. LU 20-102914DZM GW AD; Alamo Manhattan Blocks

Dear Members of the Design Commission:

I am a new resident of the South Waterfront. In the little time I have been here, I have noticed that there are a limited number (three) of vehicle routes out of the area (and each route is restricted for some distance after leaving the South Waterfront). The routes are: south on SW Macadam, north on SW Gains to the I-5/Hwy 43 on ramp, and north on SW Moody. With the present vehicle load, the three exit routes are sufficient for adequate vehicle circulation in normal circumstances. However, if one exit route is blocked, even partially, this has a ripple effect on the remaining exit routes causing a significant disruption in the overall traffic circulation in the area. (If a situation occurs in the area causing an evacuation, I do not believe that the limited number of exits would allow for orderly vehicle movement.)

For example, the other day a truck was stalled on one lane of SW Gains leading to the I-5/Hwy 43 on-ramps. This caused the other exit route on SW Moody to be backed on SW Bond to SW Lane. I have also witnessed a blockage of SW Moody that caused the exit route on SW Gains to be backed up to SW Bond and then south to SW Lane. I believe that these examples show that the limited number of exits from the area are almost at capacity in normal circumstances.

I note and appreciate the effort by the developers and the City to channel a significant portion of the new residents onto public transportation. With over 700 new parking spaces being added to the area, however, it should be anticipated that there will be a material additional vehicle load on the limited exit routes to the detriment of all who live in the area.

I have no concern with the designs of the buildings in the proposal. If this is not the appropriate body to address the potential traffic problems that may result from the proposal, please direct me to the proper person/committee.

I appreciate your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me.

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