

# Andrea Whittaker

**#329772 | June 8, 2021**

## Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Design Overlay Zone Amendments, Recommended Draft**

When we moved to Arbor Lodge almost 9 years ago, we chose our single family home a few blocks from Interstate Ave. because of the charm, relative diversity (compared to other Portland neighborhoods), and the ease of cycling due to bike lanes and designated bike paths. We also saw it was an area that was somewhat walkable, but hoped that the walkability would get even better over time. Through the years, we have seen lots of construction. Initially, it was multiple single family homes on a lot that was previously occupied by only one home, or the addition of ADUs. Eventually, there was the demolition of the bowling alley and other businesses to make room for apartments. When that happened, we thought that perhaps those apartments would have businesses on the first level that would somehow make the tall, new buildings more tolerable. But that has yet to happen. Now, the construction is happening literally all around us: 2 buildings on N Maryland already completed, housing ~50-60 new residents; 18 units across the street; 6 units directly next door; 121 units directly behind us; and this is only what is scheduled for our BLOCK, and all permitted for no parking. In a neighborhood where a majority of the homes have street only parking, the only logical reason for this is the assumption that those who will be moving in will not have personal vehicles and utilize either public transit, bikes, or walking. In order to make this possible, there must be places for all of us in the neighborhood to walk/bike TO which would be aided by this amendment. Please help us keep our neighborhood a COMMUNITY and not just a collection of people living more compactly in a shared space.

Testimony is presented without formatting.