

**OPB LU 21-012886 DZM GW mistake in staff report about driveway**

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To: Bryant, Hannah <Hannah.Bryant@portlandoregon.gov>

Hannah,

I saw your staff report has appeared online. I've just begun reading it.

One thing immediately jumped out at me as totally wrong. On page 9:

***The driveway has operated as a one-way southbound, with vehicles accessing it from South Nevada street and, upon leaving the bottom level of the structured parking area and loading docks, turning right to continue around the south side of the building. This has resulted in all traffic driving through the site to the area closest to residential neighbors.***

None of that is true, and has never been true since at least 2005 when I moved here. While the driveway south of the parking structure's lower level exit has been one-way southbound, the section from that exit north to Nevada has always (again, at least since 2005) been two-way.

Furthermore, even though drivers leaving the garage have a choice of turning right and heading south (as you wrote that all do) almost 100% do exactly the opposite--they turn left and head north to exit onto Nevada. This is based on my seeing literally thousands of cars exiting the garage over the past 16 years.

They go north because going south makes no sense. Going north to Nevada is a much shorter route to Macadam. It puts you at a signalized intersection where you can turn left to go south, or right to go north. Drivers wanting to go south on Macadam would never go south on the driveway because there is no southbound (left) turn possible onto Macadam due to the median. Drivers wanting to go north on Macadam would never exit south on the driveway because they'd have to drive about 300' all the way around the south end of the building, then turn right onto Macadam and drive the entire length of the building northbound (about 450') just to end up at the same Nevada/Macadam intersection that they could have gotten to far more quickly by exiting north on the driveway.

Plus, by exiting north on the driveway, all drivers avoid having their way blocked by vehicles in the loading area that they may encounter if driving south.

On top of all this, OPB agrees that it is currently a two-way driveway from the parking structure exit north to Nevada. The February 8th Narrative states, under Project Description (p. 9):

***The changes include (i) removing two (2) parallel parking spaces; and (ii) converting the rear drive aisle of the site from two-way to a southbound one-way only driveway, which allows for a narrower drive aisle.***

The report's description will mislead the Design Commission into thinking that OPB has made an improvement that benefits us by changing the driveway from one-way to two-way, and reducing

driveway traffic past our home. The reality is that OPB has made no improvement at all, because the driveway has always been two-way from the garage exit to Nevada.

Furthermore, OPB's original proposal (the above quote) was ***the opposite***--to convert the existing two-way section to one-way, even though it was obvious that would have increased driveway traffic near our home dramatically. They only dropped that horrible idea after I objected, and pointed out all the problems, foremost for OPB being that vehicles leaving OPB could not head southbound on Macadam without driving blocks through the neighborhood to turn around.

Plus, it's disappointing to see that description given that I sent you a detailed description of how the drivers exiting the garage have always been able to exit north to Nevada, and why they prefer that route ("OPB One-way driveway problems", p. 25-27 in my responses in the public record file).

I included diagrams showing it also (same file, p. 54-55).

**OPB should not be given credit for changing a bad situation (a one-way driveway) into a good one (one that allows exiting the garage north to Nevada) when the reality is they took the GOOD situation and tried to turn it into a BAD one, and only abandoned that after I pointed out all the problems it would cause for OPB.**

I hope that you can correct this for the Commission. I also assume this email will go into the file for the Commissioners.

Mike

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