

From: [Daniel Turner](#)
To: [Planning and Sustainability Commission](#)
Cc: [Geller, Roger](#); [Haley, Robert](#)
Subject: RW9263 - NE 42nd Ave Street Vacation - written testimony
Date: Monday, March 7, 2022 6:02:09 PM

Written testimony by
Daniel Turner, neighbor

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. I have reviewed the Draft Staff Report and Recommendation to the Planning and Sustainability Commission, R/W #9263 and some of the supporting information. I am not familiar with the City of Portland processes and rules, so please read between the lines and translate into the correct jargon. I hope that the 200+ unit housing development at this location will also improve pedestrian and bicycle access and make this part of 42nd Avenue safer. Currently, the site is very inconvenient for cyclists, the 42nd Ave / Halsey intersection feels unsafe for pedestrians (narrow sidewalks, fast traffic and crossing buses) and is dangerous due to people struggling with mental health issues and substance abuse. I fear that bad design and lack of resources will make matters worse. Despite the current shortcomings, pedestrians are constantly using this corridor as it serves as a vital north-south route. It is woefully underused as a bicycle route because the current, bad design of the north and south ramps to the 42nd Ave bridge. It is so bad, cycling families use the Chavez Blvd sidewalk instead. At this point, building and traffic plans are not available. This is a very important piece of public property with the potential for being a great public place.

Specific comments:

1.
The City should not hand over 42nd Avenue without binding future owners to an amazing pedestrian and bicycle experience and creating a safe experience for all. It is your job to figure out how to do this. I support making the vacation conditional upon design approval. The design reviews should allow for public participation. The design should consider the pedestrian, bicycle, transit and automobile systems and how they relate to each other.
2.
“BDS” is used without definition.
3.
Regarding “C. The Transportation Element”. The 2035 TSP online map also shows the site within a “Pedestrian District”. The site should also be considered a “Major City Walkway” based on the definition. Furthermore, the preliminary plans show blocking a “Major City Walkway” which is the connection the Sullivan’s Gulch Trail, so the vacated street will become that “Major City Walkway”.

4.

Please also consider that the site and pedestrian bridge will serve as a route to the neighborhood school (Laurelhurst) for future residents of the development and current residents of the apartment to the west. Also, Grant High students use the site to get to school.

Thank you,
Daniel Turner