

Written Testimony

Row 1035

Name	Richard Sheperd
Agenda Item	795
Position	Support with changes
Comments	<p>Dear Mayor and Commissioners Rubio, Ryan, and Gonzalez,</p> <p>I am writing to ask that you accept this funding, with a slight addition: to publicly denounce the removal of a any Protected Bike Lane (PBL) or Cycle Track throughout the city. Removing PBL's with any city funding would put this, and many more funding opportunities for safe streets infrastructure in jeopardy.</p> <p>The current PBL on NW/SW Broadway has is a monumental success, providing key safety improvements and delivering numerous benefits to both cyclists and pedestrians. Even suggesting that we remove these enhancements would be a step backward for the city, jeopardizing our Vision Zero goals, our Climate Action goals, and violating our 2035 Comprehensive Plan (see Policy 9.6).</p> <p>One of the primary reasons for advocating this upgrade is the need for continuity in our infrastructure. The installation of a cycle track through N/NE Broadway with this funding has been widely anticipated, and it makes little sense to have a protected bike lane on one side of the river, only to abandon it as we approach downtown. We should strive for seamless connectivity and consistency across our city to ensure that cyclists can travel safely throughout all areas.</p> <p>The NW/SW Broadway Cycle Track has proved to be a huge success, as evidenced by the 100% increase in BIKETOWN rides on Broadway in the year following its installation. Furthermore, the shorter pedestrian crossing distances and reduced speeds have undoubtedly contributed to increased safety for all road users. These positive outcomes emphasize the importance of maintaining and expanding our connected low-stress bicyclenetwork.</p>

In considering the improvements necessary for the crossings at Hotel Loading zones, we should explore funding options such as creating a Local Improvement District (LID). This would allow nearby properties to contribute a portion of their property taxes annually, providing a sustainable financial solution for upgrading these areas. By investing in these upgrades, we can further enhance safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Safety must remain paramount in any evaluation of changes to the current bike lane infrastructure. Reverting to the pre-PBL configuration from 2018 would significantly compromise safety by increasing crossing distances and potentially encouraging higher vehicle speeds. Additionally, such changes could expose the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to potential lawsuits. It may be worth seeking legal advice from the city attorney to ensure that we are considering the full legal implications of any potential actions.

According to Bike Loud PDX's research, the leading cause of such accidents is drivers failing to yield while turning. This finding underscores the need for protected bike lanes that safeguard cyclists at intersections and mitigate potential crashes.

While recognizing the importance of the current project, it is crucial to acknowledge that PBOT's limited staff capacity would be better spent on other pressing needs within our city, such as the development of Northeast In Motion and addressing transportation gaps in East Portland. It is necessary to distribute our resources equitably and address critical infrastructure needs in areas that have been historically underserved.

I ask that reconsider opening a public comment period and instead work to upgrade the Protected Bike Lane on NW/SW Broadway. is imperative for maintaining the safety, accessibility, and continuity of our cycling infrastructure. The remarkable success of the NW/SW Broadway Cycle Track, the potential for improvement in Hotel Loading zones, and the necessity of prioritizing safety all point to the need for upgrading rather than removing the existing bike lane. It is my hope that you consider these points and support the enhancement of Portland's cycling infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard "RJ" Sheperd
Former Chair, Bike Loud PDX

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Submitted 09/20/23 9:22 AM

Final Meeting Date 09/20/23

**Public Records
Acknowledgement**

Attachment No

Portland City Council Meeting - Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Agenda Item	First Name	Last Name
795-1	David	Binnig
795-2	Sarah	Iannarone
795-3	Clint	Culpepper