

October 11, 2010

Mayor Sam Adams
City of Portland
1120 S.W. Fifth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Susan Keil
Director
City of Portland Bureau of Transportation
1120 S.W. Fifth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Adams and Ms. Keil:

The Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association Board of Directors is very concerned about a dangerous traffic safety problem on Northeast Wistaria Drive that connects 42nd and 41st avenues.

Neighbors can attest to a long history of accidents on this street. The most recent was in the early morning hours of Saturday, Sept. 18, when a hit-and-run driver smashed into a resident's parked car, crushing it against boulders that another neighbor had placed in the parking strip to keep runaway vehicles out of his front yard. This past winter, two TriMet buses crashed in front of that same house at 3920 N.E. Wistaria Drive.

In January 2009, a woman passenger was pinned in her car after a serious accident. In December 2008, a car full of teenagers knocked over a utility pole, shutting power to the neighborhood for hours. Several years ago, a teenager in a Jeep Grand Cherokee hit several vehicles and knocked over a tree. Residents have learned not to park on the downhill side of the street because their vehicles will be sideswiped or have their mirrors knocked off.

This is a very busy street, including bicyclists, pedestrians and skateboarders, because it is one of the few north-south routes over Alameda Ridge. Our fear is that someone walking or riding will be struck and killed by an out-of-control vehicle.

Will Stevens has been in contact with the neighborhood. As a result, the city conducted a cursory review (54F3325437) which found the street has a "negative super elevation." Any fundamental fix to the problem would cost millions to reconstruct the street, we were told.

But other, less expensive solutions are possible. One could involve pairing this solution with traffic-calming upstream at N.E. 41st and Alameda/Beaumont. We understand from Kyle Chisek, capital projects manager, that the city has plans to make Alameda Boulevard a bike boulevard. Curb extensions, crosswalks, flashing beacons and other traffic calming measures would also have the psychological effect of slowing vehicles as they approach the curve to Wistaria.

Our neighborhood is particularly impressed with what the city has done at the intersection of North Willamette Boulevard and Rosa Parks Way, which includes channelization, crosswalk and a permanent speed readerboard at that intersection.

Craig Goodroad in the transportation bureau has told us that a permanent speed readerboard might be an effective option on 41st Avenue as drivers approach Wistaria Drive.

We understand that the city has little funding for these projects. The neighborhood association would consider contributing to the cost of a solution. We ask that this problem be properly studied and any solution be placed on a transportation system plan or capital improvement plan.

Traffic safety is one of the highest priorities of the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association. This intersection is one of the most hazardous in our neighborhood. We appreciate your attention to this serious safety issue.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Al Ellis

President, Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association

cc: Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Moore-Love, Karla

From: d.r.anderson@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, November 05, 2010 9:00 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Cc: d.r.anderson@comcast.net
Subject: Council communication

Karla,
This is to follow up on our discussion yesterday. I'd like to be on the council agenda for Nov. 17.

David Anderson
4020 N.E. Wistaria Drive, Portland, OR 97212
503-913-4203

I'm following up on a letter that the Beaumont-Wilshire Neighborhood Association sent to Mayor Adams, the other commissioners and Susan Keil a couple of weeks ago regarding the dangerous traffic condition on Northeast Wistaria Drive as 41st Avenue becomes Wistaria Drive south of Alameda Boulevard.

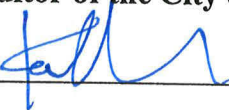
Request of David Anderson to address Council regarding the dangerous traffic condition on NE Wisteria Dr (Communication)

NOV 17 2010

PLACED ON FILE

Filed NOV 12 2010

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		