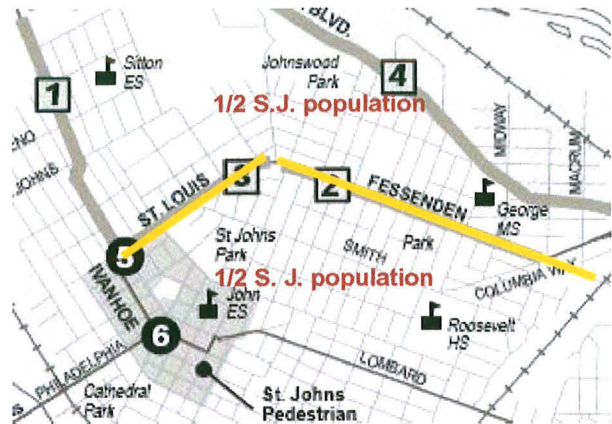


Testimony to Portland City Council

Dec 5, 2012

Donna L. Cohen dcohen@dcoheninfo.com

St John's resident and member
of stakeholder committee



Changes to transform the **Fessenden / St Louis corridor** in St John's from an ad hoc truck route to a neighborhood street appear to be on track. This corridor has separated thousands of people—primarily kids, seniors and disabled—from the St John's downtown core. Over the past year and half and with assistance of mediation between neighbors and PBOT staff [thank you Amanda], the committee is to present a close-to-complete plan to the community at an Open House on Dec 12.

The community needs assistance from City Council on two issues:

1. Enforcement

The West Hayden Island Health Report discusses the negative impact of trucks in a residential area. Add in our large, vulnerable population, and it is clear the thru trucks must go. Unfortunately, PBOT staff have only ever supported "mitigation" of the thru trucks. But, we do finally have No Thru Trucks signs at each end of the corridor and we ask that you direct the Police Bureau to enforce the law. Based on pre-signs data, only 1/2 of 1% of freight trucks on the corridor are local. Recent statements by PBOT staff that police will begin to pull over "trucks suspected of being non-local" is not satisfactory. We know from a survey of businesses that there are only 2-3 local freight deliveries per day. Police can assume a freight truck is very likely non-local. St John's residents need a firmer commitment about enforcement.

2. An adequate Community Open House on Dec 12

The community needs to be sufficiently informed about the plan and have a chance to ask questions. Our only other Community Meeting was in Nov, 2011, attended by about 75 people. This time we expect more. The PBOT plan for next week is to have visual aids, and for staff to talk with people individually. Although this approach is sufficient for part of the meeting, a plan which took a year and half to develop, and which is being presented to potentially 100-150 people **requires that a portion of the meeting be a group presentation / Q&A session**. As a former teacher, this is a no-brainer.

Not providing a presentation will not allow the best possible outcomes for the meeting. **Several** of the neighbors on the committee have stressed to PBOT staff more than once the necessity for a presentation. St John's needs and deserves an open group discussion/Q&A of the plan. For PBOT staff to avoid doing so reflects disrespect to a community which has been ill-served by the City in the past in regard to the issue at hand.

At the first Open House, having been in close proximity to the speakers after the presentation, I heard personal discomfort expressed about the experience, and it appeared to me that, then and there, a decision not to have a presentation at subsequent community meetings was made.

I ask all of you to remind PBOT staff of their professional obligation to serve the community which, in the case of Dec 12th, means providing a group presentation during which the proposed plan is reviewed, input is solicited, and questions are taken.

Thank you very much.

Jennings, Gayla

From: Donna Cohen [dcohen@dcoheninfo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 5:03 PM

To: Jennings, Gayla

Cc: Commissioner Fritz

Subject: Dec 5 Council Meeting

Hello Gayla,

I would like to speak for 3 minutes on Dec 5 to City Council.

My concern / question relates to the process for public involvement at city events specifically arranged for public input.

More clearly - there is going to be a public meeting in my community, an Open House put on by the Bureau of Transportation. This will be our second Open House [the first was in Nov 2011]. At the first Open House - at which about 50 people attended - a portion of the meeting was a Q&A between PBOT staff and the community members. This was a very significant aspect of the public outreach process.

At the upcoming Open House - at which we anticipate a significantly larger number of community members - we have been informed by the Bureau that there will be no Q&A portion. This is quite disappointing - and inefficient. There is simply no way, or reason, that basic elements of the transportation plan the Bureau has developed in conjunction with the community over a period of 18 months, would not benefit from being communicated in a group setting. And, beneficial and efficient for community members to be able to ask questions in a group - many of which will be the same, or similar, among the citizens.

Furthermore, there will be a portion of this event held in Spanish, with a translator. How could one translator possibly be sufficient for the multiple conversations expected? This does not make sense.

I know of no other public PBOT Open House at which a group presentation was not done. So, I wish to express my concern, and also question the council on this practice. Is this the exception to the rule, and if so, what is the supposed justification? The only reason I can imagine is that PBOT staff seemed uncomfortable after their presentation in Nov, 2011. If they are trying to avoid an uncomfortable situation, regardless of its negative impact on the public process, this is certainly, in my opinion, unprofessional, and a disservice to the community.

Thank you.

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11/28/2012

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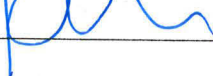
Request of Donna Cohen to address Council regarding public involvement at City events specifically arranged for public input (Communication)

DEC 05 2012

PLACED ON FILE

Filed NOV 30 2012

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		