

Update on Fessenden / St Louis corridor in St John's – Three Thoughts

As you know, the St John's Truck Strategy, Phase II, Plan was funded! Our ad hoc neighborhood group, **Citizens for a Safe and Attractive Fessenden / St Louis**, is continuing to meet and has done CleanUp events [12 people last time!], met with the city's Crime Prevention Coordinator, and plans a WomenStrength workshop, and a foot patrol, for the spring.



We are also beginning work on issues of **affordable housing and business development** along Fessenden / St Louis. We are talking with people at the Portland Housing Bureau, Commissioner Saltzman's office, John Miller, Director of Oregon Opportunity Network and others. Staff of R.E.A.C.H. CDC came to our meeting in January to talk about what they do. We invite development but we would like to be partners along the way.



Recently, two of us went to the Parks and Recreation Budget Forum. Fessenden has a park along it – **George Park** - with very few amenities. Because of its current condition, and safety issues in the area, it is not well used. It would be wonderful, if, along with the revitalization of Fessenden, the park was also made more inviting. The synergy of pedestrians along the street, and park visitors nearby, will help our neighborhood to be safer, as well.

Lastly, you can see on the map below, the original **streetcar system in Portland** included a **Fessenden / Lombard loop**. Those living north of Fessenden and in areas of Portsmouth and New Columbia could get to downtown St John's more easily with a streetcar [e.g. a streetcar is more mobility **accessible**]. We know that **development** occurs on streetcar routes [and the city is already looking at mixed-use development on the corridor], and streetcars have **no emissions**. Thus, many of us think it would be a **mobility, livability and economic asset** to St John's to again include a loop in a future St John's streetcar route. [Given the demographics of the area, as well as our poor air quality because we abut the industrial area, this may also be an **equity** issue.]

We've discovered that the Streetcar Concept Plan of 2009 started with maps showing this loop but when the **public involvement process** began, the maps no longer included the loop as an option. Perhaps it was that no one expected Fessenden / St Louis to stop being an ad hoc freight truck route. Whatever the reason, the community does deserve a chance to weigh in on this. Therefore, we're requesting the city to take a fresh look at the St John's section of the Streetcar Concept Plan and **give the St John's and Portsmouth communities – a chance to weigh in** on the future of this route.

Thank you very much!

From 1912 until at least 1933 [the last map we found so far], Fessenden was part of the streetcar route.



Jennings, Gayla

From: Donna Cohen [dcohen@dcoheninfo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 10:11 AM
To: Jennings, Gayla
Subject: RE: Council Meeting
Hi Gayla,

I'm not surprised about Dec being booked.

I think Jan 15th would be best. I'll assume we're set unless I hear from you. [Although I recognize your standard procedure may be to confirm back.]

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Donna

Donna L Cohen
503-737-1425
dcohen@dcoheninfo.com

From: Jennings, Gayla [mailto:Gayla.Jennings@portlandoregon.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 9:20 AM
To: Donna Cohen
Subject: RE: Council Meeting

Good morning Donna,

I'd be happy to sign you up for the Communications portion of the agenda!

Unfortunately, December is full. All weeks during the month of January are open. If you were interested in the first week of January, the Council meeting will be on Thursday, January 2nd. That's the only exception to the typical Wednesday Council meetings.

Please let me know if you'd be interested in a week during January (January 2nd, 8th, 15th, 22nd, or 29th).

Thanks and hope you're doing well too!

Gayla Jennings
Deputy Auditor | Office of the City Auditor
City of Portland, Oregon
Phone (503) 823-3560

From: Donna Cohen [mailto:dcohen@dcoheninfo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 8:26 PM
To: Jennings, Gayla
Subject: Council Meeting

Hello Gayla,

11/20/2013

We communicated last spring about my having a Communications slot at Council. I'd like to request one again.

I continue to work on improvements to the Fessenden/St Louis corridor with a group of citizens in St John's. I would like to broach a topic pertaining to this corridor and the Streetcar Concept Plan, 2009, to Council. Is there a time slot available in December?

Hope you are well.

Thanks very much,
Donna

Donna L Cohen

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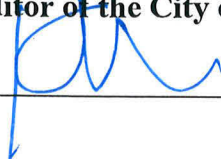
Request of Donna Cohen to address Council regarding Fessenden/St Louis corridor
and the Streetcar Concept Plan 2009 (Communication)

JAN 15 2014

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Filed JAN 10 2014

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

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	YEAS	NAYS
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2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		