



*Homestead Neighborhood Association*

3404 SW 13th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97239

December 8, 2014

Commissioner Steve Novick  
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 210  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: 2035 Comprehensive Plan TSP

Commissioner Novick:

I am writing on behalf of the Homestead Neighborhood Association (HmNA) to register our support for specific projects currently listed on the City's proposed 2035 Comprehensive Plan TSP and to request consideration of some additional projects that are important for our neighborhood.

A Transportation Task Force of HmNA recently developed a list of sixteen projects in our neighborhood that are needed to improve safety and accessibility. Twelve of those projects specifically address pedestrian or bicycle needs. That list of projects was sent to all neighborhood association members with a request to rank them according to their importance. Ballots were collected by email and in person at our December 2nd meeting and the rankings were tallied to arrive at a neighborhood priority listing of projects. The top priority projects as tallied by our neighborhood members are as follows in priority order:

**1. Marquam Hill Road Pedestrian Improvements.** (*Part of what is listed as Project No. 90049 on the TSP*) Homestead Neighborhood recommends dividing project 90049 into two projects. This upper project, 90049 A, would design and implement pedestrian facilities between 13th Avenue and Fairmount Boulevard on Marquam Hill Road. We separated this from the lower part (11th to 13th on Gibbs) of Project 90049 because of the differences in estimated cost and roadway character. Numerous pedestrians and bicyclists use Marquam Hill Road daily to travel between Fairmount Boulevard and OHSU. Marquam Hill Road is narrow with no shoulders or sidewalks, has limited sight distance due to its curvature and has cars traveling dangerously fast, particularly downhill. Having a safe place to walk on this road is a high priority safety item.

**2. The South Portland Circulation Project** (*Listed in the Southwest Corridor list of projects as #1044 but not listed on TSP*) While not actually within our neighborhood boundaries, a direct connection between I-405 and the Ross Island Bridge likely provides the greatest possible relief to the congestion currently experienced twice a day by traffic travelling to and from Marquam Hill by way of Sam Jackson Park Drive and Terwilliger. A

direct connection between I-405 and the Ross Island Bridge will remove thousands of vehicles from the signalized connections along Arthur and Broadway between 6th and the Ross Island Bridge. We believe that this project deserves to be put on the TSP regardless of whether the Southwest Corridor High Capacity Transit project is ever realized or not. The reduction in congestion and the corresponding reduction in energy consumption and pollution as well as the improvements in safety should make this project a priority for the City.

**3. Gibbs Street Sidewalk between 11th and 13th Avenues.** *(The remaining part of TSP project No. 90049)* This lower project, 90049 B, has a higher pedestrian use than the upper section because it directly connects apartments and homes in the upper Homestead neighborhood with the University and medical facilities as well as the #8 bus stops that serve the hill. Currently there are no sidewalks between 11th and 13th and pedestrians are often forced to walk in the roadway and share the space with bicycles and fast moving cars. Providing sidewalks for these two blocks would be a tremendous improvement in pedestrian safety and be relatively inexpensive to construct compared to the upper project (90049 A) .

**4. Terwilliger Boulevard Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements.** *(Not currently on TSP list.)* Two locations along Terwilliger in particular seem worthy of some form of pedestrian crossing enhancements: (1) near the bottom of the stairway going up to the VA Hospital and (2) near the terminus of the Marquam Nature Park trail south of Hamilton. This is a safety project with potentially large return for a small investment.

**5. Pedestrian Connection(s) between Barbur Blvd. and Terwilliger** Currently TSP project # 90088 listed as "Marquam Hill Pedestrian Connector" focuses on the completion of a lighted paved walkway approximately along the Gibbs Street right-of-way connecting Barbur Blvd. and Terwilliger. Homestead supports modifying Project 90088 into two projects:

90088 A: Improve a segment of the existing SW Trail #1, between Barbur Boulevard and Terwilliger. Improvements include the addition of lighting, a hand rail, a drainage system and an extension to an existing stairwell. This could be completed at moderately low cost to improve the safety of the existing trail.

90088 B: Construct a new pedestrian connection under the tram within the Gibbs right-of-way through Terwilliger Parkway. The steep grade and forested area will require a combination of some of the following elements: an escalator, tunnel, elevator, and/or bridge.

Both of these projects would improve pedestrian access and safety between Barbur Boulevard & Marquam Hill.

**6. Pedestrian Connection between Terwilliger and Condor Avenue.** *(Not currently on TSP list.)* Pedestrians walking between Terwilliger and Condor Avenue currently must use the shoulder or travel-way of a very narrow Condor Lane. An improved walkway would improve safety, accessibility and encourage walking by those travelling between Terwilliger and destinations east and south. The improved walkway could be a widened roadway (expensive), a walkway behind guardrail, or a trail/steps on a different alignment from Condor Lane.

**7. Sidewalk on 6th Avenue between Bancroft and existing end of sidewalk on 6th Avenue Drive.** *(Not currently on TSP list.)* Currently pedestrians using 6th Avenue between OHSU and Terwilliger must walk in the roadway on 6th Avenue north of Bancroft. Completing a sidewalk in this block would improve pedestrian safety and encourage walking.

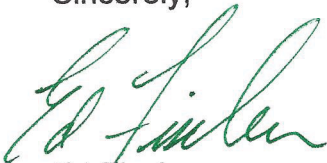
**8. Sidewalk on north side of Gaines Street between 9th and 10th Avenues.** *(Not currently on TSP list.)* Completion of a sidewalk on the south side of Gaines in 2013 was nice but not effective. West of 10th the sidewalk is on the north side. East of 9th there are bus stops and walkways north onto the OHSU campus. Most pedestrians still walk in the roadway on the north side of Gaines rather than cross Gaines twice for a one block section. This one block of sidewalk would increase safety for pedestrians on this busy bus route.

**9. Marquam Hill Traffic Monitoring and Assessment.** *(Not currently on TSP list.)* While not a specific capital improvement of concrete or asphalt the Homestead Neighborhood would like to see the City perform on-going traffic monitoring and assessment that would compare the traffic volumes and trends with the restrictions cited in the Marquam Hill Plan. Along with this assessment we would like to see planning and implementation of efforts to achieve the traffic volume targets that were approved by City Council in the Marquam Hill Plan.

**10. Homestead Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan.** *(Not currently on TSP list.)* Enhanced calming applications where possible on the roads that already have some (Hamilton Terrace, Bancroft, 6th Avenue) and possible calming to additional roads in the neighborhood such as Gibbs, Marquam Hill Road and Condor Avenue.

Thank-you for your considerations of these recommendations. Please retain them for future reference considering transportation priorities on Marquam Hill. The complete list of 16 projects that were considered and the tallied voting on priorities is on file with the Homestead Neighborhood Association and is available on request.

Sincerely,



Ed Fischer  
President & Co-chair  
Homestead Neighborhood Association

cc: (via e-mail)

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