

Subject: FW: Comments for the record TSP and Comp Plan

From: Mike Roach <iosgoodroach@gmail.com>

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To: courtney.duke@portlandoregon.gov, joan.freddickson@portlandoregon.gov

Cc: deborah.stein@portlandoregon.gov,

Steve.Novick@portlandoregon.gov, erika.nebel@portlandoregon.gov,

charlie.hales@portlandoregon.gov, bob.stacey@oregonmetro.gov

Subject: Comments for the record TSP and Comp Plan

Having reviewed the project list, we find a number of serious omissions of concern to the Hillsdale Business and Professional Association as well the Hillsdale Community Foundation (formerly Hillsdale Main Street).

#1 - Hillsdale Town Center pedestrian improvements- a large number of ped and bicycle improvements were approved as part of the Hillsdale Town Center plan in 1997 approval.

#2 - Hillsdale is at the focus of three SW Urban Trails as in the council-approved 2000 Urban Trail Plan and the 2007 Red Electric Trail Plan. We ask that the entire trail network and associated projects be included in the TSP.

We support the efforts to improve the SW Urban Trails Network as many people walk to Hillsdale to do their banking (On Point Credit Union opening in June), eat, drink coffee, use the library, take classes at the dance studio, attend school functions, go to school, buy at the Sunday farmers' market and buy clothing (shameless promotion!) among many others. It is important that these routes that have been identified be improved to make them safer and more user-friendly. The same may be said for our bicycle network. We also support projects within the Town Center that will encourage people to walk and use their bicycles as one of the few ways to stretch our constrained parking capacity and thereby maintain the vitality of the business district.

We also support the inclusion of the aggregated group of pedestrian and bicycle projects for the Hillsdale Town Center and its pedestrian district. We have many streets that are not safely walkable. That must change to make our community what we plan it to be. We welcome safety improvements of all types, the sooner the better.

We are very supportive of the community effort to get the Red Electric Trail route option that will go from Hillsdale down SW Parkhill Drive and then under the Newbury Bridge and thence north over a new bridge on the east side of the Newbury and thence along SW Slavin Road. We believe a large number of retail business customers will walk and ride to Hillsdale from the South Portland neighborhood if a safe route is provided. We do not view the current Capitol Highway as a safe bicycle route for any but the most daring of bikers.

Without getting into the details, it is important that staff work with local informed citizens to refine the project definitions and re-cost them to make them more reasonable for the proposed efforts.

Lastly, we feel it is important that all Portlanders have access to safe walking and biking facilities, regardless of income or abilities.

We understand the significant challenges involved in comprehensive transportation planning without the aid of a crystal ball. We look forward to working with you and being a constructive resource in sorting out the issues. We are confident that this will result in a better outcome for all concerned.

Sincerely, Mike Roach, co-owner of Paloma Clothing for thirty nine years and president of the Hillsdale Business and Professional Association

6316 Southwest Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97239