

Hamilton Consulting, LLC

To: Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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Date: March 5, 2015

Subject: Funding Red Electric Trail, SW Dosch Road, SW Marquam Hill Road Projects

I am writing in support of putting the funding of the Red Electric Trail as well as a SW Dosch Road and a SW Marquam Hill Road project into the first five years category.

The completed Red Electric Trail will contribute significantly to the goal of promoting more efficient movement of Greater Portland residents from suburban cities and neighborhoods to downtown Portland's commercial and cultural center. In the same way that new High Capacity Transit Corridors in the Southwest quadrant of the city will improve commuting throughout the hub-and-spoke transportation infrastructure, the Red Electric Trail is a critical part of the plan to move pedestrians and bicyclists within and between neighborhood schools, shops, and parks as well as from Tualatin or Tigard to downtown. The "hub-and-spoke" metaphor should be replaced, perhaps, by that of the bee-colony or termite (white-ant) mound, with large and small trails, streets, tracks, greenways, and arterials giving efficient access to schools, shops, homes, parks, and offices.

What SW Trails PDX has proposed regarding the Red Electric Trail has been made very clear in their brochures and at their website. You are undoubtedly aware of what this organization has accomplished with a mighty input of volunteer labor, small grants of money, and Don Baack's vision and leadership. Moving the Red Electric Trail to a top-tier of priority for funding continues in an appropriately accelerated way, the partnership among SW Trails, neighborhood association coalitions, and city/county/state/Metro governments which has greatly benefitted Portland residents: walkers, runners, bicyclists, as well as those who choose other means of transportation.

A wide climbing bike lane on SW Dosch Road is also needed for both pedestrians to walk and for climbing bicycles. Dosch Road is in desperate need of attention because of the unsafe conditions for both motorists and the many walkers (some with baby strollers, some who are school children), runners, and bicyclists. As one prominent neighborhood activist told our Hillsdale Neighborhood Association meeting last night: "You are crazy if you walk Dosch Road." But many people are forced to do so, even at night to catch a bus or to attend a church meeting within a few blocks of their home.

A wide climbing bike lane on SW Marquam Hill Road is needed for pedestrians and for climbing bicycles. This is a favorite tourist route on the popular 4T trail.

Please contact me if I can be of additional assistance in the effort to fund these three necessary projects as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

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