

As property owners on Capitol Highway and avid walkers in the Multnomah Village area, we are extremely concerned about the improvements proposed for Capitol Highway.

Our primary concern is preserving the neighborhood's "rural feeling" and livability. The previous proposal was too large and disruptive for our neighborhood, and too expensive.

We support a "one side" solution, adding a sidewalk and bike lane to just one side of the highway along the proposed 1.1 mile stretch of road.

One obvious reason for this is that the Capitol Highway viaduct into Multnomah Village has a sidewalk on only one side. Widening the viaduct to add another sidewalk is beyond the scope of this project and would probably make it prohibitively expensive. Wheelchair access that ends at the viaduct would force the disabled to cross the highway at a mostly blind and dangerous intersection (Capitol Highway and Garden Home Road), or force them into the traffic lane on the viaduct.

A "one side" solution would also mitigate the amount of land, ours included, that would be needed to widen Capitol Highway for sidewalk and bike lanes on both sides. We are specifically worried about our two large fir trees that would probably need to be removed, or could possibly be damaged by excessive roadway improvements. It is our understanding that the City of Portland is dedicated to preserving our city's trees.

To be honest, sidewalk improvements are not a big priority to us. We walk from our home on Capitol Highway into Multnomah Village daily, and in all but the wettest part of winter, the current path is quite adequate and often even pleasant.

Thank you for your consideration,  
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