

Board of Directors  
Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Association  
2209 N Schofield St  
Portland, OR 97217  
by email: board@arblorlodgeneighborhood.com



February 19, 2015

City of Portland  
Bureau of Transportation  
1900 SW 4th Ave  
Portland, OR 97201

Re: Transportation System Plan and Other Agency Major Projects Comments

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to provide feedback on the proposed projects and priorities in the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) Transportation System Plan Project. Our Board reviewed the recently released [Major Projects + Citywide Programs Recommendation List](#) and voted unanimously in support of the following sentiments regarding proposed projects.

**TSP ID 30001            Ainsworth Bridge Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements**

Both campuses of Chief Joseph / Ockley Green sit within our neighborhood boundaries, with Ockley Green located on N Ainsworth and Montana - one block from the bridge crossing at I-5. Ainsworth is the main road serving students who cross over the freeway and into our neighborhood from Piedmont and East Columbia. This section of roadway sees a high volume of bicycle and pedestrian traffic passing east-west due to unsafe and limited crossings at Lombard and Rosa Parks, and because of direct connections to the N Michigan, N Concord, and N Willamette Blvd Greenways. We encourage PBOT to fund and prioritize this project for the safety of our children and families, as well as those who use Ainsworth as a lower-volume road for crossing the freeway.

**TSP ID 30030            N Killingsworth Streetscape Improvements**

Continuing in our support for student safety to and from area schools, we support improvements along N Killingsworth in that we see improvements there leading to increased safety for our children attending Jefferson High School Middle College for Advanced Studies as well as Portland Community College.

**TSP ID 30035            Lombard St ITS**

**TSP ID 30037            N Lombard Corridor Improvements**

**TSP ID 30059            N Lombard Main Street Improvements**

We strongly support any and all improvements to Lombard St in N/NE Portland. We have partnered with several projects working to improve Lombard in and around our neighborhood, including Lombard Reimagined and Friends of Lombard. We hope to live to see the day when Lombard becomes a safe thoroughfare for our residents to cross and use rather than a thruway only used to get past our neighborhood. As such, we encourage improvements to the east and west of our neighborhood in hopes that the culminating effect leads to a people- and business- friendly environment along our northern boundary.

Sharing a border with the freeway means that we see the impact of unsafe pedestrian linkages on a daily basis as very high volumes of pedestrians from surrounding neighborhoods try to access the Interstate and Lombard transit hub and local businesses including automobile-oriented parking lots and drives of Fred Meyer and several gas stations and fast food restaurants. Due to the unsuitability of the current traffic configuration, people who walk, bike and roll (as well as people who drive) often engage in unsafe and even illegal maneuvers in an attempt to access local businesses, transit, enter and exit the freeway and surrounding residential areas. At all times of day, you will find people engaging in a game of [Frogger](#) at the I-5 on/off ramps to both the north and south side of Lombard. We often fear for their safety as well as our own. We urge PBOT to move swiftly on the Corridor Improvement Project for the benefit of local residents as well as all those who pass through on their way west to the rest of North Portland.

In addition to these improvements to Lombard, our Board envisions a future where the state highway designation is transferred to Columbia Boulevard as it travels through North Portland. As such, we support projects that will assist with this transition, allowing for safe rail, freight and automobile travel along this important corridor. Discussions with ODOT suggest that a major obstacle to this goal is the at-grade crossing of the BNSF tracks west of N Chautauqua. PBOT should create an overpass over the tracks.

Additionally, our neighborhood (and adjoining neighborhoods') needs for addressing safety and livability would be much more easily met if ownership of the highway was transferred to PBOT from ODOT. The City can respond more nimbly and with more precision when addressing our families desires for safe crossings, economic development and other amenities essential for building livable neighborhoods. We strongly urge coordination between City and State transportation staff to move forward with plans to transfer highway ownership to the City.

**TSP ID 20065 Interstate-Larrabee Ramp Removal**

We have submitted prior comments on this section of the roadway in support of commuters from our neighborhood headed into the City who find this section of Interstate unsafe. We strongly support improvements for all road users travelling to the downtown core from North Portland, a majority of which pass through this notoriously poor stretch of infrastructure.

**TSP ID 102340 Columbia Slough Trail Gaps**

We encourage the City and Port to close the gaps in this trail treasured for recreation by many of our neighbors.

**TSP 116400, 116401, 116420, 116430 and 116440 North Portland Greenway Trail Segments 1-5**

We strongly support the creation of a multi-use trail connecting the city center with North Portland allowing residents access to recreation and non-automobile travel to and from the city center.

**Other Agency Major Projects**

**TSP ID 30033 Portland Vancouver Light Rail**

We support extending light rail to Vancouver, WA, as many of our residents travel to and from Washington for work and recreation. We experience much of the congestion that Vancouver residents experience along our major North/South arterials and believe that the light rail would provide timely and efficient travel between our two cities.

**TSP ID 30076            Columbia River Rail Bridge Improvements**

We are encouraged by the inclusion of this item on the project list. We agree that the project would reduce I-5 lifts, reduce traffic congestion in our area, and increase air quality for our families. We strongly support the City's collaboration with BNSF Railroad to develop this project.

**TSP ID 20010, 20011104120, 104130   Broadway, Burnside, Morrison and Hawthorne Bridges Rehabilitation**

We encourage the City and County to work together to maintain our City's iconic bridges. We strongly support efforts to improve the likelihood that they will remain usable after an earthquake, increasing the speed of economic recovery for the region and ensuring that families will have a better chance of reuniting in the case of a major disaster. Seismic upgrades must be a part of any future bridge work.

**TSP ID 114030            I-5 Delta Park, Phase 3**

We support the replacement of viaducts over the Columbia Slough and Columbia Blvd/UPRR, especially seismic upgrades that will lead to improved access in the event of an earthquake.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

Brian Duncan  
Board President, Arbor Lodge Neighborhood Association

cc:  
North Portland Neighborhood Services  
Planning and Sustainability Commission  
Leslie Lum, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability  
Carol Herzberg, Portland Development Commission  
Kirsten Pennington, Oregon Department of Transportation  
Brooke Berglund, Port of Portland  
Brock Nelson, Union Pacific  
Mike Pullen, Multnomah County  
Steven Witter, TriMet