

Planning and Sustainability Commission:

As a neighbor in the Madison South neighborhood, I'd like to thank you for including several projects in the recommended draft TSP list that could benefit our neighborhood in the future.

I support all of the projects in the recommended draft list that I see shown for the area. The 82nd Avenue Corridor is top priority. Most of the other projects recommended in Madison South have a regional focus and will move people through our neighborhood. Unfortunately, nearly half of our neighborhood (north of NE Russell Street) will still not have safe access to these recommended bicycle/multi-modal improvements proposed for NE Tillamook, NE Halsey, the I-205 undercrossing, or Sullivan's Gulch Trail that are located in our neighborhood.

In terms of comfortable and safe bicycle and pedestrian travel, Madison South is limited by man-made and natural barriers: I-84 on the south, Rocky Butte/Grotto on the north, Rocky Butte/I-205 on the east, and NE 82nd Avenue (large properties of Madison H.S/Rose City Golf Course) on much of the west. Additionally, the center of our neighborhood includes over 20 acres of privately held land that greatly limits north-south bike or direct pedestrian access. Only NE 82nd and NE 92nd allow north-south travel for our neighbors. Improvements to NE 92nd Avenue would greatly benefit our ability to get around by foot or bike.

Why are pedestrian and bicycle improvements on NE 92nd Avenue important to us?

- Many students of Jason Lee K-8 School cannot currently walk or ride bicycles to this neighborhood school—even if they are within a ½ to 1 mile distance (north of NE Russell Street).
- There is no alternate route to this busy neighborhood street or the neighborhood school. For many now and in the future, the school is a frequent destination and we need to make sure all arrive and depart safely.
- Many neighbors, especially families, youth, or new bicycle riders (especially north of NE Russell Street) do not feel comfortable accessing the NE Tillamook bikeway due to the unsafe stretch of NE 92nd Avenue.
- There is a unique opportunity to encourage school-aged children and their families to walk and bike within their neighborhood and begin using the greater Portland cycling network.
- NE 92nd Avenue is served by TriMet. Walking to and from bus stops can feel unsafe in the narrowest areas. The buses can also create safety/visibility concerns for other pedestrians and cyclists.
- The neighborhood will likely see increases in housing infill over the next decades, so the multi-modal demands and safety conflicts on NE 92nd Avenue will likely increase.
- This section of NE 92nd Avenue is actually part of the Rocky Butte Scenic Drive Historic District. The road leading all the way to the top of Rocky Butte is included on the U.S. National Historic Register. Accessing this historic resource should be easier for the public.

- NE 92nd Avenue provides access to the popular cycling destination of Rocky Butte and will aid in increased eastbound bicycle travel from other inner NE neighborhoods via the proposed I-205 undercrossing that will access the I-205 multi-use path and Gateway Green.

I understand the \$5M+ cost makes this project difficult to envision in the foreseeable future. If it could be done in phases, the pinchpoint that has no refuge for pedestrians, is between NE Benjamin and NE Russell. The remainder of the stretch does have some narrow shoulders and some sections of sidewalk.

Please find a way to fund improvements on NE 92nd Avenue. Without improving safety on NE 92nd Avenue, we are failing to encourage multi-modal travel for most of the neighborhood. Creating future pedestrians and cyclists in our City is a necessity to realize the benefits of this long list of transportation investments.

I personally would love if the families in our neighborhood could ride or walk to the neighborhood school and the future Gateway Green on the other side of the freeway. I hope to someday see a safer NE 92nd Avenue.

Sincerely,

Brent Carnes and Kristen Kibler (and school aged child attending PPS Jason Lee K-8)
3440 NE Cadet Avenue
Portland, OR 97220
(503) 493-9892
kristenkibler@gmail.com