

I live on SE Morrison Street, 1 blk north of Belmont. I have owned my home for over 20 years. I strongly feel that neighbors on both sides of Belmont should have received a mailer giving us detailed information regarding the proposed comprehensive plan in advance of any decision regarding the urban vs. village concept. I feel that an actual neighborhood vote should happen, not just deferring this to the neighborhood association to cast the deciding vote. It is clear that most homeowners never attend neighborhood association meetings and the select group that does go doesn't always speak for the masses. Maps, sample drawings and clear explanations of how this could affect everyone would have been helpful. The village concept is a much more sustainable choice over the urban center as Belmont is a narrow 2 lane street and few would want to repeat the canyon effect that's happened on Division. If traffic slows down on Belmont like it has on Division, drivers will begin detouring through side streets causing greater potential for pedestrian and bicycle accidents. No matter how you feel about it, people will not stop commuting by car and even those who ride bikes will still use a Car to Go when needed or drive their own vehicle. Purposely slowing traffic and providing less parking spaces (bioswales and street seats) does not encourage less driving it only encourages driveway blocking and frustration for the homeowners in the area. I originally moved from NW Portland because parking was so bad it was literally unsafe to get from my car to my front door at night. I feel that the city has become overrun with bicycle proponents who are eager to create havoc in any way possible for those who own cars.

Sunnyside neighbors already endure the party block between SE 33rd and 34th. Unless we are mindful to encourage a diverse array of businesses to serve the neighborhood, another mecca of bars and restaurants will be created, drawing people from all over the city, increasing traffic and putting a strain on already limited parking. It's one thing to encourage more people to live in a neighborhood but a whole other thing to create an entertainment hub, which then becomes a major visitor destination. Let's do what we can to provide extra living spaces and still respect the overall livability of the neighborhood. Another note, I've noticed an increased amount of young couples with children in the neighborhood and it would be nice to see more places for families to go that aren't alcohol driven. My own teenagers complain that there isn't any place for them to go, that everything is a bar.

The city must do a better job of monitoring developers of single family homes and apartments. It should be mandatory for all new buildings, condo, apartment, or retail, to offer parking for tenants and customers even on a limited basis. The condo building on SE 35th and Belmont was able to offer parking as well as a ground floor restaurant and hair salon. Buildings should not be so tall that they entirely block the sunlight and windows should be placed to respect the neighbors homes behind them. The city should approve all building designs to avoid what happened on Division. Regarding single family homes, building homes that don't blend with the neighborhood creates a jarring look and is upsetting to the people who live around them and who paid good money to live there. I've heard people say "Well if you don't like it just move!". This cavalier statement usually comes from people who are new to the area, are themselves rootless, rent, and have no clue about the time and investment a homeowner has put in.

Lastly, please don't forget that homeowners are deeply invested in the area and are far more impacted in the short and long term than someone else who can easily pick up and move.

Thanks for allowing my input.

Sincerely,

Teresa Loveland  
3540 SE Morrison  
Portland,OR 97214