

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: *Accept Portland's Neighborhood Greenways Assessment Report.

Contact name: Margi Bradway

Contact phone: 503-823-5667

Presenter name: Margi Bradway

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

Portland's neighborhood greenways (formerly known as "bicycle boulevards") are residential streets designed to prioritize bicycling and enhance conditions for walking. In Portland, there are currently over 70 miles of neighborhood greenways that were developed in three distinct phases since the first project on Southeast Salmon and Taylor streets more than 30 years ago.

Neighborhood Greenways have long represented and fostered the best elements of Portland's transportation culture by creating safe streets where people can bike, walk and play.

Neighborhood greenways support an array of city goals, including equity, sustainability, community-building, prosperity and healthy living. As a key component of Portland's transportation system, neighborhood greenways must serve as a place for people of all ages and abilities to bicycle and walk.

Neighborhood greenways use a variety of transportation engineering tools to reduce the number and speed of cars. This reduction is critical to their operations. Streets with few cars and slow speeds create safer, more comfortable conditions for bicycling and walking. Neighborhood greenways also include safe crossings of major streets and guide signs to direct travelers along the route and to their destinations.

Because neighborhood greenways have developed over the last 30 years their design and operating principles have evolved. The first neighborhood greenways were little more than a few traffic circles and diverters aimed to reduce and slow automobile traffic. Since those original designs, Portland has recognized the critical role these routes have played for growing the number of people bicycling in the city and for their contributions to neighborhood livability. Both Portland and the transportation world have come to better understand the design and operating guidelines necessary to create and maintain a system of neighborhood bike and walk routes that encourage a wide range of people to use active transportation to get around. The following report proposes not just design principles but operating guidelines to ensure that Portland's neighborhood greenways provide a safe, comfortable place for people of all ages and abilities to bicycle and walk.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

There are no costs to the City.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This report includes data analysis and staff recommendations. Because the report is primarily a technical document, PBOT plans on conducting public involvement and outreach based on future

capital improvement projects, if Council accepts the recommendations. Many community and advisory groups have responded favorably to the Bureau of Transportation's proposal to evaluate and propose recommendations for the neighborhood greenway system. PBOT did ask for feedback on the technical findings from interested members of the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee and meetings with advocacy groups, including the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Bike Loud PDX.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

YES: Please complete the information below.

NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount

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