

From: Barbara Quinn [mailto:barbaraqnn718@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 5:27 PM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Street vacation at N. Richmond & N. Charleston

Planning & Sustainability Commission members,

I was one of the original citizen advisors who worked for 2 years on the St. Johns Plan finalized in 2004. A plan to grow St. Johns for the following 20 years and achieve a more effective pedestrian district. The plan's proposal to reconfigure the blind curve between Richmond and Charleston was instigated by citizens in partnership with PBOT due to the unsafe conditions created by the blind curve that is incongruous with a safe pedestrian district. In addition the unsafe curve is adjacent to an elementary school in an area where young students walk to school.

The safety issue is even more relevant now that we have more residents and a busier town center. St. Johns still has yet to achieve its potential as a fully functional pedestrian district. The current plan to vacate the streets moves us closer to the vision of the St. Johns Plan.

The proposed street vacation and subsequent development achieves several things for St. Johns town center:

- 1) it removes the blind curve and makes a slower vehicular approach to our town center
- 2) it removes the berm on Ivy Island so drivers can see into the town center and the main street, a sight which is invisible currently to passing motorists.
- 3) it supports the vision of the St. Johns Plan and the goals of St. Johns Main Street
- 4) it creates a new plaza, with potential for a more attractive gateway with added opportunities for outdoor cafes & as a gathering site.
- 5) it creates a plan for maintenance of the new plaza taking that burden away from local groups