

To The Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission:

My name is Kevin Alden and I reside at 109 N. Lotus Beach Drive, in the Hayden Bay Homes on Hayden Island. I was recently notified that the City of Portland is considering changing the walking path to a combination walking path and bike path.

I have a great deal of experience with walking paths that have been converted to a combination walking path and bike path, due to the fact that I lived in Huntington Beach, California, and Carlsbad, California, where history dictated that the aforementioned combination isn't a safe and effective cycling solution and leads to personal injury, mainly for the cyclist and sometimes for the pedestrian.

I am a cyclist and I've observed many folks who were riding on the path, down Pacific Coast Highway, when a leashed dog suddenly lunged off the green belt on to the paved path and caused the cyclist to violently crash. This resulted in one (1) death and many concussions, during my short three (3) year residence.

Due to the fact that the proposed bike path would be open to pedestrians, joggers, baby strollers, roller-bladers, dog-walkers and other non-motorized users; the fact that this bike path is separated from traffic leads people in to a false sense of security. Bike paths, by design, are popular with families who are encouraging small children to ride. This creates a dangerous environment where the youngest and most vulnerable are at odds with cyclists who are riding fast to get to a destination, as well as pedestrians and canines, and the large group of indigenous geese that are always present, add to the liability of those who engage with each other. .

Bike paths should be based on one's desire to ride safely, get where they need to go, and to provide a transportation solution. The path behind the Hayden Bay Homes is unsafe for cycling, coupled with pedestrian and canine traffic, it does not serve as a transportation solution, and is secluded, isolated, and disconnected from meaningful destinations.

Furthermore; increasing the traffic on the existing path poses a security threat and liability to the homeowners, creates a conflict between the folks who pay to maintain and insure the property, exposes the walking public and bikers to potential injury, and causes a serious conflict with the indigenous geese. It is also an extreme hindrance to the local fire department.

The City of Portland has always created and designed amazing bike paths that are not isolated from traffic flow and are included in the mix of traffic with proper markings, lights, and people who must obey the law, in favor of the cyclist. **Bike paths are a "ride at your own risk" transportation corridor**, while streets with clearly marked bike paths, require the public who are walking, riding, dog walking, or using any other form of transportation to **obey the law**, which offers a greater level of protection from injury, liability, and lack of safety.

We are confident this project can be moved to the streets of the Island to offer protection for all concerned.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Judy Alden
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