

From: Jan Roxburgh [mailto:hummingbirdzoo@yahoo.com]
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To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony for TSP Hearing - 22nd March, 2016

Written Public Testimony for TSP Hearing 22nd March, 2016

My husband and I live on Hayden Island and have made it our home. For the record, we are pro-bicycle and are environmentalists, and deeply care about the City of Portland. We applaud Portland's strong efforts to become a truly sustainable and Green City. We recognize that a network of safe bicycle trails and bikeways are part of this exciting Green movement. However, when I studied the PBOT map for the proposed bikeway that goes around the edge of the Hayden Island Manufactured Homes Park Community, I became very concerned. I wondered if planning was done using Google Maps, because on Google Maps you can see a green grassy strip that gives the impression that there is a sizable distance between the river and the line of homes. In actual fact, there is only a very narrow pathway along the edge of the river, and the distance between the water and the homes is only about 6 feet wide before a steep, 20 foot drop-off into the river. To have a really safe bicycle/pedestrian bikeway would mean taking over much more than a 6 foot width, and this would result in displacing about 112 homes situated along the river's edge.

Most of the residents in the Manufactured Homes Park are low-income, and many are elderly, or disabled. There are also many families, with a sizable percentage being Latino. What is keeping me awake at nights is the knowledge that displacing residents here would sadly result in a lot of homelessness. The monetary value of the manufactured homes is not high, and the purchase of the homes for the bikeway would not allow the residents to get a suitable home elsewhere, even if there was some acceptable area in Portland to rehouse them. By the way, almost all of the homes have been where they are for a long time, and could not simply be picked up and transported somewhere else. They are no longer mobile. They would fall apart.

The Manufactured Homes Park has about 450 homes altogether. I have verified with the park managers here that if the 112 higher-rent-paying riverfront homes were lost from the park, the park could no longer survive financially. This would impact the thriving Hayden Island RV Park as well, as it is all under the same management. With the current Portland housing crisis, it is so important that the city does not do anything that would destroy the viability of a diverse, close-knit community residing in affordable homes.

Please remove the proposed North Hayden Island Bikeway from the Comprehensive Plan Transportation System Plan.

Thank you.

Janet Roxburgh
1503 N. Hayden Island Drive,
Portland, OR 97217