

From: Joseph Albert [mailto:jalbert@homespdx.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 8:36 PM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: TSP Testimony

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to provide my input on the proposed revision to the Transportation System Plan with respect to bicycle classification maps.

We currently have an established de facto bikeway on NE 7th Ave. The proposed TSP calls for establishing a major city bikeway on NE 9th, and leaving NE 7th as a minor city bikeway.

At a recent public meeting, PBOT employees indicated it would cost \$2 million to upgrade NE 9th to a major bikeway, including a path around the periphery of Irving Park. It was also articulated that it would only cost \$1 million to upgrade NE 7th to a major bikeway.

I am opposed to the proposed plan 9th Ave. for several reasons:

1. The City is asking taxpayers for a gas tax because of underfunding of transportation projects. We need to start with responsible planning of projects and not ask taxpayers to fund an extra million to fund bikeway improvements on NE 9th when NE 7th is an already established bikeway.
2. All of the bicycle commuters who use NE 7th today I have spoken with (and it is over 30 cyclists) say they would not use a bikeway on NE 9th.
3. The use of NE 9th will require a path around the periphery of baseball and soccer fields in Irving Park. Cyclists and ball players will have to watch out for each other, detracting from both experiences.
4. Numerous bicycle advocacy groups and the Irvington Community Association would like the available funds to be spent upgrading NE 7th to a major bikeway, and not NE 9th.
5. It is hard to see taxpayers who do not live in Eliot, Irvington, King, or Sabin neighborhoods favoring spending an extra million to upgrade 9th instead of 7th to a major bikeway, particularly when neighborhood cyclists would not use NE 9th.
6. The new bike/ped bridge over I-84 will be on 7th. Having bikes move to 9th north of Broadway means unnecessarily negotiating 2 blocks of travel on Weidler or Broadway, which will further demotivate cyclists from using a bikeway on 9th.

Let's make the most of the resources we have, and upgrade NE 7th to a major city bikeway, spending \$1 million less to get a more functional, desirable, and more heavily used bikeway.

Thank you,

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