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To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>

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Subject: TSP Testimony - support for North/South Bikeway on NE 9th Ave. (not on NE 7th)

I would like to state my strong preference to **make NE 9th Ave the future Lloyd District N-S Bikeway/Greenway** over NE 7th.

As an avid and daily bicyclist and a resident of this neighborhood, I would much prefer and advocate for 9th Ave being transformed into the N-S bicycle route, and leaving NE 7th to funnel cars through the neighborhood. While 7th Ave does need crosswalks and some traffic calming measures, it is the street most appropriate for cars, not bikes. Bikers prefer to be on side, residential streets with low traffic. Other city bikeways are implemented on streets like 9th, not 7th. Case in point are Going St, Rodney St. which residential side streets, and not striped with traffic lines for cars and intersections with stoplights and commercial uses, like NE 7th at Broadway and at Knott.

The idea of placing diverters on NE 7th to bring traffic levels down is a **terrible idea**. Create a bikeway on a street that already has lower levels of traffic and is appropriate for bikes - NE 9th. Thinking that you will be able to divert all NE 7th traffic to NE MLK Blvd. is ridiculous. Cars coming from the east, trying to get to 7th Ave (if blocked off) will cut through the neighborhood, from NE 15th to go east on Thompson, Tillamook and Brazee. Irvington School is smack in the middle of this neighborhood, with kids crossing to and from school 2 or more times a day. There are very few 4 way stop signs. This would most definitely increase accidents and near misses. It would be very irresponsible to place diverters on NE 7th Ave, forcing cars to cut through the neighborhood and **place kids and adults who walk through these streets in serious danger**.

I hear that the Irvington Neighborhood Association supports the Bikeway/Greenway on 7th. I am a resident of Irvington Neighborhood and attend meetings once in awhile and **do not agree with the ICA, and neither do many of my neighbors**. This association is not representative of all of the neighborhood, especially the western edges, like 8th and 9th Ave. Their focus is mostly on historic preservation matters. I was not aware of any vote taken on this project, and would represent that many neighbors on 8th and 9th do not support plans that consider putting diverters on 7th Ave. - and definitely prefer the Bikeway/Greenway on 9th.

If PBOT supports the Bikeway/Greenway on NE 7th because the city can "kill two birds with one stone" - and implement traffic calming measures on 7th b/c there is a funding mechanism for Greenways - I would sincerely ask those in a decision making role to stop and reconsider. There has got to be some way to fund modest street improvements that slow traffic and increase safe crossings on 7th, while implementing the Bikeway/Greenway on 9th, where it is most appropriate. Do not place diverters on

NE 7th and force traffic into the residential side streets adjacent to an established school where kids and families cross on foot, bike, strollers and skateboards multiple times a day. It would be a fatal mistake.

Thank you,
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