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Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 9:32 AM

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

Cc: Transportation System Plan <TSP@portlandoregon.gov>

Subject: TSP Testimony - Support for Designation of NE 7th as Major City Bikeway

Planning and Sustainability Commission,

As a resident of NE Portland, I strongly support classifying NE 7th as a major city bikeway from NE Weidler to NE Sumner. NE 7th is the most direct route from the Lloyd District to the Alberta Arts District and already sees heavy use by people on bikes.

As someone who has also started biking in the last year, using 7th provides me a comfortable ride to Williams, Mississippi, and on the weekend up to St. Johns, if car traffic is light. However, cars speeding leads to a harrowing experience for me as people driving cars race to pass me and other people biking before the roundabouts. Neighbors have reported many similar instances of speeding, aggressive driving, and crashes onto sidewalks and trees. Traffic calming would improve safety and decrease air pollution and cut-through traffic on NE 7th.

By contrast NE 9th does not connect well with the Lloyd District, is indirect, requires jogs, has greater elevation gain, and has a truly awful road surface - all deterrents for people beginning to bike to feel encouraged to use it. Additionally, at a recent open house PBOT projected it would require twice as much money to turn NE 9th into a greenway instead of NE 7th. So focusing and extending NE 7th as a major city bikeway, will both help Portland save money and encourage more people to take trips by bike.

NE 7th should be a safe neighborhood street - providing people on bikes a needed north-south connection - not a speeding cut-through for people in cars who want to avoid traffic on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Please support the NE 7th Greenway through the updated Transportation System Plan.

Warm regards,

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