

August 8, 2016

Planning and Sustainability Commission

Dear Commissioners:

The Northwest District Association strongly supports the improvement of the bicycling network in the district in conjunction with the Central City 2035 Plan, especially the designation of NW Flanders and NW Pettygrove Steet as a greenways, the improvements to NW 18th and 19th, and the establishment of a greenway along NW 22nd. We have some concerns, however, with the designation of NW Savier Street as a greenway.

Our primary concern is that it may be difficult for users of a NW Savier greenway to comfortably cross NW 23rd Avenue. There is no traffic control to stop cars racing from the light at Raleigh Street to the light at Thurman Street. And it is not clear that the lights are timed so as to allow a break in the traffic from both directions long enough for greenway users on bicycles to safely cross NW 23rd.

In addition, west of NW 23rd Avenue, Savier intersections have stop signs on Savier, but not on the crossing avenues. This is not conducive to the sort of low-stress route a greenway is supposed to provide since greenway users must stop and wait for cross traffic to clear at each intersection.

East of NW 23rd Avenue, Savier faces additional challenges as a greenway. Savier does not currently connect between NW 22nd and NW 21st Avenues. Development of the Con-way properties along NW Savier will need to be examined closely to ensure that the resulting path along NW Savier is conducive for use as a greenway.

Finally, Savier does not have the abundance of desirable destinations long its length that NW Raleigh Street enjoys, such as Chapman Elementary School, Wallace Park, New Seasons Market, and (at its eastern extreme) the Ramona building where Chapman Elementary kindergarten will be housed for the foreseeable future.

For these reasons, we ask that a comprehensive analysis be undertaken to examine bike designations and facilities in our neighborhood as soon as possible as part of a Northwest District Access and Circulation Plan, as contemplated by the Stage 2 Recommended Draft of the TSP. With the opening of BIKETOWN, even more people unfamiliar with our neighborhood are riding bicycles in it, and the need for efficient and safe bicycle facilities in Northwest is only increasing.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Harrison

Chair, NWDA Transportation Committee

cc: Mauricio Leclerc
Roger Geller
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