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Testimony to the Planning and Sustainability Commission

Members of the Planning and Sustainability Commission, I thank you for your dedicated work on the Central City 2035 Plan. Regarding the Transportation System Plan portion, I am happy to see some of the updates that have been made, particularly regarding making SE 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues as Major City Bikeways. I do have one concern.

For the past year I have commuted by bicycle to and from Portland State University from the Alberta Arts Distric. After experimenting with various bike routes, I settled on taking the Steel Bridge and biking along Waterfront Park. The only reason I choose to bike along the waterfront is because there are no direct north-south routes through downtown that I find pleasant to bike on, particularly during rush hour. As you know, Waterfront Park is bursting at the seams with an abundance of both bicyclists and pedestrians. This makes for an awkward situation for all people as they try to negotiate passing one another. Having direct north-south Major City Bikeways through downtown would encourage people to bike on the streets instead of on our beloved pedestrian areas.

In the near future we could see the Park Blocks become akin to Waterfront Park. As part of the Green Loop, it is expected that many more people on foot and on bike will use the Park Blocks. Moreover, large-scale events similar to those found on Waterfront Park could become a common occurrence on the Park Blocks. While I applaud the upcoming improvements, I am concerned that the mix of fast cyclists, slow cyclists, joggers and walkers could turn the Park Blocks into another Waterfront Park.

I feel that NW and SW Broadway and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues would make a great couplet as Major City Bikeways. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave has signals well-timed for bicyclist speed. It also has numerous destinations within Portland State University and the Pioneer Courthouse Square area. Additionally, 6<sup>th</sup> Ave provides a great connection to the Broadway Bridge for bicyclists heading to Northeast and North Portland. If 6<sup>th</sup> Ave became a pleasant place to bike on during rush hour, I would use it instead of taking Waterfront Park or the Park Blocks. I would like consideration to be given to making 6<sup>th</sup> Ave a Major City Bikeway from SW Jackson all the way to Union Station. Thank you for your time.