

October 18, 2016

Portland Bureau of Transportation  
1120 SW Fifth Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Street Vacation - NE Marx St, NE Deering Dr, NE 111th & NE 112th Aves (RWA #8073)

Dear Mr. Karl Arruda:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the street vacation of NE Deering Drive and NE 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Parkrose Neighborhood Association is comprised of residents and business owners in the Parkrose neighborhood who strive to improve the livability of the neighborhood. We consider the Columbia Slough to be a great natural asset to our neighborhood and would support any decision that maintains its quality as well as promotes conscientious public access to the Slough.

We do not find the majority of the NE Deering Drive vacation to be a problem. In fact, having private ownership along much of the Slough would deter frequent, casual, and potentially damaging activity along its shores. However, the connection from NE 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the Columbia Slough is an important public access point to the Columbia Slough. This area of the Slough is called Little Four Corners and is noted for the clear springs bubbling up from the bottom. This connection of NE 112<sup>th</sup> to the Columbia Slough is one of the few access points for the public, and should not be relinquished. We consider it beneficial to our community to have one of these access points in our neighborhood.

Currently there is a 15' easement being proposed in a PBOT map of the area. If the City decides to go with the entire vacation, we suggest expanding this easement to include the entire boat launch area and have access to that easement be managed by the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. This way they could facilitate classes and workshops and provide educational experiences of the Slough in ways that would preserve this beautiful resource.

In closing, the Parkrose Neighborhood Association firmly believes that public access points to the Columbia Slough, such as this access at NE 112<sup>th</sup>, need to be preserved for future generations of Portlanders to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annette Stanhope  
Chair, Parkrose Neighborhood Association