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April 12, 2018

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Members of Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1221 SW Fourth Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

The Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) is pleased to forward our recommendations and report on the proposed vacation of an unnamed road east of NE 160th Avenue south of NE Halsey Street (RW #8351) for your consideration.

The PSC held a public hearing on the street vacation on February 27, 2018. The PSC voted 10-0 to recommend approval of the proposed street vacation, with one recommended condition and a general comment regarding connectivity in East Portland.

While the PSC agreed with PBOT staff that the current unnamed road does not serve a useful transportation purpose for vehicles, it approved of the concept of creating a pedestrian / bicycle path to connect NE 160th Avenue to the existing stub of NE 161st Avenue, which falls within the City of Gresham. Additionally, the PSC discussed the benefits of requiring lighting for the planned walkway / bike path.

The PSC considered an amendment (to the motion approving the vacation request) proposed by *Commissioner Baugh*, summarized as follows:

PSC recommends approval of the vacation with the 15-foot-wide east-west pedestrian easement in the center of the road to be vacated, and with the 16-foot-wide north-south connection to NE 161st Avenue. In addition, PSC recommends a requirement for appropriate lighting and signage (at the time of development) for a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists. The City should also ask the City of Gresham to install a pole light at their intersection of the trail and NE 161st Avenue.

The PSC approved this amendment 8-2.

PSC members noted that this street vacation highlights the difficulty of creating connectivity across large blocks in East Portland. The PSC asked PBOT staff if the City had any programs to allow the City to acquire property where street connections would be desirable from a transportation planning perspective. PBOT staff were not aware of any such programs, and



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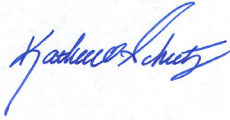
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that in some areas, pedestrian and bicycle paths are the best that can be achieved with a limited budget and with limited authority to set conditions for developments.

The PSC discussed the idea that the City should consider the creation of a program for acquiring property in areas the City has identified as priorities for vehicular connectivity. At a minimum, the PSC wanted to express its frustration with the lack of options for improving connectivity in areas where there is general agreement that an improved street grid is desirable.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of this project and for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Katherine Schultz
Chair

