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October 25, 2019

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

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

On September 24, 2019, the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) held a public hearing on the Columbia Lombard Wayfinding Improvements Project. This project originated with businesses, residents, and other stakeholders along the Columbia and Lombard corridors in North and Northeast Portland who noted difficulties with wayfinding, deliveries, and calling in emergencies due to confusing changes in street names along the corridor, even while driving straight through an intersection. There are also situations where streets do not conform to City-adopted naming conventions or do not adequately signal to the public which portions of a street are busy arterials as opposed to local streets.

The Columbia Lombard Wayfinding Improvements Project proposes to rename several street segments along the corridor to address these wayfinding issues as outlined below.

After hearing from PBOT staff and considering public testimony, the PSC voted unanimously (9-0) in favor of these street name changes.

North Portland Phase I Wayfinding Improvements

A portion of N Lombard Street becomes N Columbia Boulevard

From: N Burgard Road / Lombard Street / Columbia Boulevard intersection

To: N Kelley Point Park Road

All of N Burgard Road becomes N Lombard Street

From: 11000 Block of N Lombard Street at railroad track crossing

To: N Burgard Road / Lombard Street / Columbia Boulevard intersection

All of N Columbia Boulevard frontage road becomes N Johnswood Drive (new)

From: N Bliss Street

To: 202 Feet East of N Buchanan Avenue



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NE Portland Phase I Wayfinding Improvements

All of NE Lombard Place becomes NE Lombard Court

From: NE Lombard Street at NE 10th Avenue

To: NE Columbia Boulevard East of NE 17th Avenue

All of NE Portland Highway becomes NE Lombard Street

From: Underneath NE 42nd Avenue Bridge

To: NE Killingsworth Street West of NE 72nd Avenue

A portion of NE Columbia Boulevard becomes NE Columbia Court

From: NE Columbia Parkway

To: NE 92nd Drive

A portion of NE Columbia Boulevard becomes NE 92nd Drive

From: NE 92nd Drive

To: NE Killingsworth Street West of Interstate 205

NE Portland Phase II Wayfinding Improvements (Future)

A portion of NE Killingsworth Street becomes NE Lombard Street

From: NE Killingsworth Street West of NE 72nd Avenue

To: Interstate 205

Staff provided the following information for PSC members that may also be helpful for Council members in making your decision about this project:

- The proposed street renaming will only result in 118 properties changing their address, and most of these are only changing street name and will keep the same number. The number of impacted properties is relatively low because the corridor is mostly made up of larger industrial properties, some of which are vacant, and there are also non-addressed features such as railroads and natural areas along the corridor. Block sizes are also often longer than usual in this corridor, so the project only encompasses 54 intersections, reducing the cost of street signs.
- No addresses will be changed before May 1, 2021, which provides time for businesses to use up printed material, and for internal City testing to be done on City databases, such as the water and sewer billing system, permit system, police citation system, etc. The US Postal Service typically continues to deliver mail to the old address for another year after the official change, giving residents and businesses even more time to adjust. The exact date of the physical switchover of street names by street will vary according to Maintenance Operations crews' availability, and this will be communicated in early 2021 just prior to the change.



- One street name change, changing the Highway 30 Bypass portion of NE Killingsworth Street to NE Lombard Street, is recommended by the PSC but will not be taken to City Council until PBOT secures additional funding for changing freeway signage along I-205. This is referred to above as “Phase II”. The rest of the street name changes (“Phase I”) are recommended for City Council adoption for implementation by May 1, 2021, using already-budgeted PBOT funds.

Finally, the PSC supports staff’s recommendation on maintaining dual-signage in the corridor for significantly less time (just 1-2 years) than the City’s current 5-year standard. Such a change would apparently require City Council action, which we would support.

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

Sincerely,



Eli Spevak
Vice Chair





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