

*Comp Plan*

**Testimony from Gary Miniszewski, Home Owner address: 8343 SW 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland OR. Resident of AshCreek Neighborhood**

*Oct 14, 2014*

**Proposed Comp Plan Policies;** City Staff can readily makes findings to back these policies up.

### **School Facilities**

Policy 8.100 to take place of Private institutions Policy. That can be numbered 8.101

Elementary Schools: Because local elementary schools help to create socially cohesive neighborhoods and allow for walking and bicycling to school, encourage public school districts (especially Portland Public School District) to re-consider elementary schools closures made in the last 15 years. This should be done to determine if demographic changes in the school respective service areas have changed to possibly justify re-opening the schools.

### **Residential InFill Development**

Policy 5.45 to take place of Responding to social isolation. That can be numbered 5.46

The City will develop development standards to mitigate impacts of new dwellings which are proposed to be constructed in existing neighborhoods zoned for residential use. These developments standards for physical compatibility shall address house design, height, massing, back and sideyard setbacks, roof design etc. to mitigate the impacts on existing adjoining and adjacent dwellings. Some of the main factors to be considered for impact mitigation will be sunlight for existing and potential solar panels on existing dwellings, sunlight into existing dwelling windows, solar radiation for existing rear and side yard vegetable gardens/ landscaping, existing home owner privacy, street parking capacity, and neighborhood architectural patterns.

### **Proposed change to Special Projects:**

SW Garden Home Road from Capitol Hwy to Multnomah. Map no. 90034 Reconstruct Rd to three lanes with signal improvement at Multnomah intersection, drainage, bike lanes, sidewalks and curbs.

I and the AshCreek Neighborhood Association recommend that this project be broken into two parts and revised as follows:

- a. Multnomah intersection be made into a controled intersection with traffic signals. Please see attached Ashcreek Neighborhood letter to Commissioner Novick.
- b. Make minimal road should improvements along Garden Home Road from Capitol to Multnomah for pedestrian and bicycle saftey. This would include drainge designed for the physically constrained right-of-way. Please see attached Ashcreek Neighborhood letter to Commissioner Novic.

The reason for Garden Home Road does not need to be rebuilt to inculde three lands with sidewalks and curbs is this road is only a "neighborhood collector". It has been designated as a neighborhood collector because it only has avg weekday traffic count of 1, 500 to 2,000 vehicles. This segment of Garden Home Rd is also constrained by topography that includes creek ravens, and severe vertical and horizontal curves. The cost of the proposal would far outweigh the any added benefits of the

*Pg 1 of 2*

improvements.

This part of Portland, like most of SW Portland, is hilly, wooded and is rural/suburban in character. To build the road proposed would be out of character with the surrounding neighborhood.

As seen on a road map, Multnomah Blvd closely runs parallel with Garden Road and it is a "district collector" with traffic counts ten times the magnitude as Garden Home Road (avg daily traffic volume: 12,000 to 15,000). I would like to venture the guess that when the City made this recommendation for the reconstruction of total length of Garden Home Rd from Capitol to Multnomah, it mistakenly used information derived from a "Portland Commercial Corridor Study" made a few years ago for the Garden Home Rd segment between SW 69<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Based on the results of that study, it can be easily concluded that that segment should be reconstructed to have three lanes with curbs, sidewalks and gutters as Oleson Road has been recently improved. Traffic from Multnomah Blvd funnels into that segment of Garden Home Road causing it to serve as a District Collector.

Cc: Leah Treat, PBOT, Peter Hurley, PBOT, Mark Lear, PBOT, Joan Frederiksen Planning, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Dean Smith Chairman of AshCreek Neighborhood Association, Manianne Fitzgerald, SWNI Transportation Chair



ASHCREEK

## ASHCREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 15, 2014

Commissioner Steve Novick  
City of Portland  
1221 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 210  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: Portland Comprehensive Plan List of Significant Projects

Dear Commissioner Novick:

The Ashcreek Neighborhood Association (ANA) reviewed the Draft Comprehensive Plan List of Significant Transportation Projects (draft dated July 2014). We offer the following comments and priorities. Ashcreek focused its discussion on projects near its boundaries in SW Portland.

### Comments:

ANA recommends that PBOT revise the project description for the SW Garden Home Road improvements (TSP #90033). Several years ago, this project was divided into two projects that are reflected in Metro's 2014 Regional Transportation Plan. We request that PBOT revise the Garden Home Road TSP project description to match the language in the RTP:

- RTP 10191, Garden Home Road from Capitol to Multnomah, Improve and signalize the intersection at SW Garden Home Road/Multnomah Blvd.
- RTP 11116, Garden Home Road from Capitol to Multnomah, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, including drainage designed for constrained right-of-way.

We also request that PBOT consider separating out and refining the portion of TSP project 90011 (55<sup>th</sup>/Pasadena/Pomona Bikeway (Taylors Ferry-Barbur)) to construct sidewalk and bicycle facilities in the segment from SW 61<sup>st</sup> and Pomona to SW 64<sup>th</sup> and Barbur Blvd. This will make it much safer for walking and biking through this high-density section of the neighborhood to frequent bus service transit stops, shops and services on Barbur. There has been a lot of infill in this area since project 90011 was developed over a dozen years ago, including a 21-unit housing development (Ashcreek Commons, a Home Forward property) that does not have a sidewalk to walk from the residences to the nearby bus stop on Barbur Blvd.

### Priorities:

ANA's priority projects support near-term construction of the following projects:

- a. Improvements at the intersection at SW Garden Home Road/Multnomah Blvd (RTP 10191),
- b. Garden Home Road from Capitol to Multnomah, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements (RTP 11116)
- c. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities from SW 61<sup>st</sup> and Pomona to SW 64<sup>th</sup> and Barbur (portion of TSP 90011),
- d. Capitol Highway Bicycle & Pedestrian improvements (Multnomah-Taylors Ferry) (TSP 90026)
- e. Taylors Ferry Road bicycle/pedestrian improvements (Capitol Highway-City limits) (TSP 90064)

Commissioner Steve Novick  
September 9, 2014  
Page 2

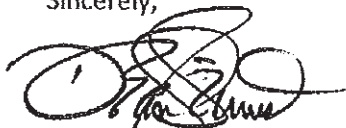
The City of Portland agreed to improve the Garden Home Road/Multnomah Blvd. intersection when jurisdiction was transferred to the City (Ordinance 165422 dated May 13, 1992). This project has been on PBOT's Systems Development Charge project list since 1999 due to significant growth in the area, but few improvements have been made to date. We urge PBOT to work with Ashcreek neighbors on designs that will improve safety at this dangerous intersection as soon as possible.

Ashcreek met a number of times with PBOT staff in 2011-12 to discuss various safety proposals along Garden Home Road. ANA submitted a letter to PBOT on June 13, 2012 prioritizing needed safety improvements, but PBOT has not formally responded and ANA is still awaiting construction of improvements.

The Ashcreek Neighborhood has very few sidewalks on its busy streets and no safe way to walk to nearby commercial centers in Garden Home, West Portland and Multnomah Village. We request that PBOT review our list of the five priorities above and construct needed safety improvements as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact our Transportation Chair Marianne Fitzgerald at (503) 246-1847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Smith', is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dean Smith, President  
Ashcreek Neighborhood Association  
c/o Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.  
7688 SW Capitol Highway  
Portland, OR 97219

cc: Leah Treat, PBOT  
Peter Hurley, PBOT  
Mark Lear, PBOT  
Roger Averbeck, SWNI Transportation Chair