

## Transportation System Plan Testimony – February 24, 2015

Good evening. My name is Jeanne Harrison and I am testifying on behalf of the Northwest District Transportation Committee, which I chair.

The NWDA Board has endorsed a specific streetcar extension to serve the newly developing northeast portion of our neighborhood that was approved through the Con-way master plan. It is critical that this rapidly developing area is well-served by multiple transit options.

We are requesting a new project, an extension of the street car line on NW Northrup that would extend north on 21<sup>st</sup> to Thurman and then run on Thurman to 23<sup>rd</sup> and finally travel on NW 23<sup>rd</sup> to Northrup. Further, we are requesting that a study be placed on the TSP studies list that would examine a further extension of streetcar service to Montgomery Park.

The other changes we are asking for are:

- 1) Combining projects 60027 and 11740 as these two projects are linked and should be constructed at the same time. 60027 relates to reconfiguration of the NW 23<sup>rd</sup>/Vaughn/I-405 off-ramp and 11740 relates to creating a 'jug handle' from that intersection that would loop north onto NW Wilson and create a new NW 20<sup>th</sup> under the off-ramp that would link into the Con-way area. Both of these projects were envisioned by the Con-way master plan. This project is our highest priority as it is essential to improving the functioning of this gateway to the neighborhood and providing a key access point to the Con-way site.
- 2) We are asking that two studies be reinstated and put onto the TSP studies list. These studies are currently listed as projects 60002 and 60010. The studies would investigate the feasibility of decoupling NW 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and NW Everett and Glisan. All four of these streets are currently classified as Local Service streets, which are inappropriate for couplet treatment. The studies would investigate the decoupling of these streets and/or identify appropriate changes to calm traffic on them.
- 3) NW 23<sup>rd</sup> between Lovejoy and Vaughn has been identified by PBOT as having major structural problems that require a rebuild of the street. It is not clear where this type of project, which goes far beyond mere maintenance is housed in the TSP. This part of 23<sup>rd</sup> requires rebuilding sooner rather than later.
- 4) The other high priority project for our neighborhood is 20097, the NW Flanders pedestrian/bicycle bridge over I-405 in conjunction with bicycle improvements from the Steel Bridge to NW 23<sup>rd</sup>. This project is badly needed to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety between our neighborhood and the Pearl.

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- 5) And finally, we are very supportive of the program area funding approach. It's important to have a way of making the small projects happen. The smaller projects can often have an important impact on neighborhood livability and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.