

From: Alisa Owens [mailto:owensalisa5@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 7:30 AM
To: Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>
Subject: TSP Testimony

March 21, 2016

Hello,

This is in regard to the proposed Bicycle Accessibility on the North Hayden Bay Walking Path. My husband and I are homeowners and full time residents at the Hayden Bay condominiums on Tomahawk Island Drive. Previously we contacted you regarding the city of Portland's proposal to make the Hayden walking path accessible to public bicycle traffic and general public accessibility. We greatly appreciate that the proposed public accessibility for Hayden Bay has been removed from the plan for Hayden Island. We would also like to make it very clear that we are also against the remaining proposal for a public access path from the Red Lion Hotel all the way around the west end of the island. There are several key reasons that this is not a desirable plan for anyone living on Hayden Island/Jantzen Beach.

1) The displacement by eminent domain of approximately 120 homes on the west end of the island for a public access bike path cannot be considered in the best interest of the people living on the island. The amount of money that it would take to build this bike path to nowhere increases with every step that it would take to make this happen - cost of buying these homes from unwilling homeowners, the cost of legal battles trying to enact eminent domain that would surely take years, damage to and reconstruction of the current infrastructure including sea walls, retaining walls, fences, access for emergency vehicles, parking - all just the tip of the iceberg.

2) The far West end of the island is predominantly home to a nature preserve - Eagles, herons, geese to name a few. In a city that so prides itself on protecting its natural resources, it's inconceivable that this last little bit of wild island would be OK to destroy for a public access bike and walking path.

3) The proposal to have the path end at The Waterside Condominiums is totally unrealistic. While the Commission has ensured us the path will end at The Red Lion, we have seen no plan for how to prevent the public from entering our private property at will. No fence or wall can be built that will keep out those who are determined to "see what's on the other side", and those who feel that since they are already on public ground are entitled to keep going onto private property, leaving us open to liability for any accidents that may happen while they are trespassing.

4) The island is a combination of public and private roads, all of which are increasingly hard to maintain with the current traffic from the ever increasing shopping population at Jantzen Beach - giant potholes, sink holes, and long lines of traffic JUST to get on and off the island are already nearly unmanageable. If the plan is to make this an area of increased high density, what is the plan for local access and maintaining all of these roads?

5) I myself not only live full time on the island, I also work here at a retail store in Jantzen Beach. If the PSC is really about creating an excellent quality of life for all Portlanders, this plan has no place in today's Portland or the future Portland. I urge you to personally come to the island and take note of one undeniable fact. The majority of visitors to this island are from Washington State, including but not limited to Vancouver. I estimate that 75% to 80% of the customers I wait on every day are NOT from Portland. Come check out the license plates at Jantzen Beach shopping Center on any given day. Come to have lunch at The Island Cafe on the east end of the island and count the number of Oregon license plates on one hand - the rest are from Washington. People in Portland, for whatever reason, do not come here. Most don't even know we exist. As a homeowner and a taxpayer, it is unconscionable that the City of Portland would consider paying millions and millions of dollars to improve the quality of life for who? Not those who have homes here and pay taxes here, certainly. It would be for people from another state who use our roads, find jobs here, and shop here without paying for any of it. They shop here tax free, they pay no taxes for infrastructure, they ride their bikes on the Portland side of the Columbia River on the paths our money bought.

Please reconsider this entire plan. There is no place for this kind of heavy handed planning in a city that claims to be about the people of Oregon. We are homeowners, yes. Think about what that means - these are our HOMES, not just houses. We live our lives here with our families and our friends. We run

here, we bike here, we walk here and we boat here. We sit outside on our patios and our lawns. Some of us work here. Just like any other neighborhood in Portland, we deserve to have the respect of the City of Portland when it comes to our quality of life.

Thank you for your time. I am sure you will see that this plan is not the best thing for the city of Portland to spend its limited resources on.

Sincerely,
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