

To: PSC@portlandoregon.gov
Re: TSP Testimony
From: Betsy Galloway, <johnbetsy@peoplepc.com>
Date: March 21, 2016

I am very concerned about the possibility of the addition of bicycles to the current very narrow paths and streets around the residential areas of Hayden Island. Currently a Columbia Point Condo owner (since 2014), I also lived in the mobile home court nearest the I-5 bridge on the river for 15 years (1984-1999), and was even born in Vanport. Thus, my interest in the island is of long duration.

A. SAFETY CONCERNS

The current paths are very narrow, used by hotel guests, parents with baby strollers or carriages, people walking dogs, exercisers, as well as elderly and disabled folks with canes or walkers.

There is not adequate room for bicycles width-wise.

Hearing or seeing bicycles approach, especially from behind, would be problematical.

The proposed area by the Red Lion is a delivery/service entrance and a fire lane.

Fire services have a difficult time getting around on the island with the current roads. Adding bike paths on the already narrow streets would exacerbate the problem.

B. SECURITY CONCERNS

The proposed path is directly in front of houses, condos and a hotel, and could provide easy access and exit for prowlers or thieves if bikes were allowed.

Currently car prowls and parking are both Island issues. Where would path users park?

Ingress and egress for the pathway area is limited.

Extra patrols might become a necessity for all the housing areas affected by increased usage.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The area along the river in front of the mobile homes closest to the I-5 Bridge is a dike, controlled by the Corps of Engineers. It is illegal to build on it. The mobile homes in that area are located below the level of the dike, and can be below river level in high water. (Occurred Flood 1996)

The river edge of the island would be the first area affected in an earthquake.

Trees, yards, bushes, flowers as well as birds and small critters would be impacted.

D. HOUSING IMPACT

With a widened path for bicycles, residents of 112 mobile homes would be displaced in the midst of the city's current housing emergency.

Possible loss of affordable housing is a step backwards, not forwards, in this economy, isn't it?

Please consider the many negative implications in this proposed project. From the perspective of this Island resident, who is also a veteran long distance recreational bicycle rider, I do not consider the proposed addition of bicycles to the Island pathway a reasonable project for our city or community.

Betsy Galloway
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