

Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee

Working to Make Bicycling a Part of Daily Life in Portland

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Room 800
Portland OR 97204



October 19, 2016

Commissioner Steve Novick
City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

RE: SW Corridor DEIS Scoping
Shared Investment Strategy Implementation

Dear Commissioner Novick,

The Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) submitted the attached comments to Metro in support of the active transportation projects to be evaluated or potentially considered as part of the SW Corridor DEIS scoping process. The projects, which were submitted by the City to Metro, are part of the “Shared Investment Strategy” to support the SW Corridor LRT. The projects were endorsed by the SW Corridor Steering Committee in 2013. In reviewing the proposed pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects, the BAC noted two projects on the list where the City did not seize recent opportunities to complete them. A third Shared Investment Strategy project could be supported by transportation improvement requirements related to a pending development application.

Terwilliger Parkway Bikeway Gap

In 2014, the City improved the 7th and Chestnut intersections with storm drainage facilities and sidewalks. Despite the urging from neighborhood representatives, the Terwilliger bike lane gap of approximately 250 feet between the two intersections was not addressed. Completing the missing bike lane could have been accomplished with relative ease and reduced cost (compared to a second separate project). The new sidewalk improvement at 7th is in the path of the future bike lane.

Chestnut Street Bikeway

This project description includes an uphill bike lane from Terwilliger to the existing bike lane on Vermont near Wilson High School. This street was totally resurfaced late this summer, and the uphill bike lane was not considered. In addition, a curb extension was built at the Burlingame/Chestnut intersection, effectively precluding the uphill bike lane option.

19th Avenue Bikeway

A mixed-use development was recently approved at the corner of 19th and Barbur (Case File # LU 15-267919 AD). The street improvement requirements are subject to further evaluation. The City should require improvements along the 19th and Barbur frontages, which support provision of the bicycle facilities described in this Shared Investment Strategy project.

The BAC encourages the City to take full advantage of opportunities to complete the active transportation improvement projects associated with the SW Corridor. They all would help alleviate the significant safety and connectivity issues present along the entire corridor – with or without light rail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather McCarey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather McCarey, BAC Chair

cc: Leah Treat, PBOT
Art Pearce, PBOT
Theresa Boyle, PBOT
Bob Haley, PBOT
Chris Ford, Metro
David Martin, SWNI Transportation