

To:

Rian Windsheimer, ODOT Region 1 Manager

Leah Treat, Director of Transportation, City of Portland

February 8, 2016

Re: ODOT 82nd Avenue Intersection Improvement Project; Burnside to Division & Related Issues

To all whom it concerns,

First we commend the Oregon Department of Transportation for the safety improvements that the subject project will address. We have advocated for many of those improvements – particularly the pedestrian crossings and the sidewalk improvements that are about to start construction. We also commend the Portland Bureau of Transportation for working together in many ways with ODOT.

We also believe that - in a certain few but very important aspects - this project or a subsequent project should be able to accomplish more to meet the needs of Montavilla neighbors. We held a meeting on January 19, 2016 during which we discussed one of the major issues of concern with both ODOT and PBOT engineers and planners as well as one staff member from Mayor Hales' office¹. This is the issue of neighborhood traffic impacts caused by vehicles intending to turn and head east on Washington Street from 82nd Avenue southbound; the "no left turn onto Washington Street" issue. At that meeting we had an excellent discussion of possible solutions and ways of mitigating the problem. Some of the engineers present agreed that there is reason to further investigate the ideas discussed. We therefore request PBOT and ODOT engineers and planners follow through and continue collaborating to solve this problem by thoroughly investigating all ideas and possible modifications of ideas as discussed at that meeting.

While we recognize that we are not experts in traffic design, we are confident that there is a solution to this problem or at least a way to mitigate the impact of the diverted traffic on residents living east of SE 82nd on SE Alder and SE 84th. We request that the experts in your two agencies diligently seek a solution. One first step would be to obtain accurate traffic counts for the volume of traffic that makes the eastbound turn by way of Alder Street and 81st onto Washington Street from 82nd Avenue. If huge traffic volumes must continue to be diverted along this route then we request that the streets affected be improved to full city standards and that traffic calming or other measures be implemented to reduce the impact from this diverted traffic.

During design of the subject ODOT project, engineers considered including signage on SE 82nd that would direct southbound traffic to round the block to Stark, to 81st, then to Washington Street eastbound. We have recently been told that this signage concept was dropped as part of the current

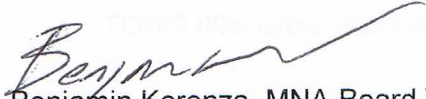
¹ Rich Watanabe and Matt Freitag were present from ODOT; Kurt Krueger and April Bertelsen were present from PBOT; Jillian Detweiler was present from Mayor Hales' office.

project - but no explanation was offered except that ODOT staff suggested it was a PBOT decision. Please reconsider using more robust signage as part of the solution. While this is not the solution we most desire, it should be considered as a partial mitigation measure if nothing else can be done soon.

The entire area around the intersection of 82nd Avenue with Stark and Washington is at the heart of the Montavilla Neighborhood and is of critical importance to how our neighborhood develops in the future. We therefore request that special attention be paid to solving this problem and/or addressing the associated impacts.

We certify that this letter has been reviewed and approved by a vote of the Montavilla Neighborhood Association board.

Michael Sonnleitner, MNA Board Chair



Benjamin Kerenza, MNA Board Vice Chair

Low Scholl, formerly MNA Land Use and Transportation Chair

C: Rich Watanabe, ODOT Region 1 East Area Manager
Matt Freitag, ODOT Region 1 Consultant PM
Kurt Krueger, PBOT Development Review Manager
April Bertelsen, PBOT Senior Transportation Planner
Jillian Detweiler, Mayor Hales' Staff; Policy Director for Development