



CENTRAL EASTSIDE INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL

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To: Ellen Vanderslice
Portland Bureau of Transportation
1120 SW 5th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Re: 12th Street Transportation Improvement SAC

April 19, 2011

Dear Ellen,

Thank you for agreeing to meet with our board to discuss the 12th street overpass issue and our concerns on freight movement in the North end of the district. As you know, we have serious concerns about PBOT further restricting freight movements district-wide and in that area in particular. Based on reports from the SAC and our discussion at that meeting, local businesses still have very serious concerns about the design options being considered.

While signal enhancements to increase throughput would be welcome, truck users remain unconvinced that reducing a lane will not severely restrict their movement on a major entrance and exit to the district. We will support a first step of signal changes as a means to demonstrate the findings of PBOT engineers and to provide opportunity for PBOT to work with our largest employers and the CEIC to identify solutions that benefit all groups. Additionally, we request that you put a 4-lane option back on the list of options under consideration for the SAC and slow down this process for at least a year to give businesses ample time to contribute to effective outcomes.

The concerns of truck drivers and users in that area are heightened by the challenges presented to trucks by the Couch couplet and now the proposed pedestrian and bio-swale changes to 7th/Sandy. While these projects involve significant planning and process, the net effect to the freight community is to restrict and complicate moving goods in and around the district.

It is vital for all of us to recognize that longtime employers in this area do not feel as though they have a valued voice in the process. Who at PBOT is looking after freight movement in the district and who is making sure the employers here are satisfied? Businesses, many of whom support the bicycle community, are seriously concerned that our efforts on facilitating bike commutes have become a zero-sum game, where facilitating bikes equals restricting trucks and autos.

Jobs are at stake here in the Central Eastside. We cannot afford to alienate the economic pillars of our community, whether intentional or not. They will not show up at yet another meeting and announce their dissatisfaction with our plans...they will quietly make plans to find a better place for their employees and vendors to conduct business. We simply can't allow this to continue to happen.

Sincerely,

David Lorati
President
Central Eastside Industrial Council

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