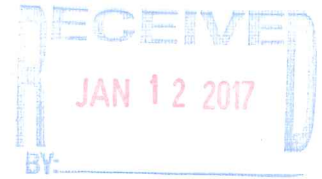


January 4, 2017

Ms. Martha Bennett, Chief Operating Officer
Metro
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97232



Dear Ms. Bennett:

I hope this letter finds you well and your new year off to a great start. I wanted to take a moment to connect with you regarding Metro's proposed project to extend the Springwater Trail through east Gresham, connecting with Troutdale. While we greatly value the open space and recreational assets provided by the regional government, and many of our residents access those assets frequently, I have substantial concerns about this particular project at this point in time.

As I am sure you are aware, the Portland region has seen substantial issues along the entire Springwater Trail alignment. It is not uncommon to hear people say they won't use the trail due to safety concerns, or that they heavily encourage their friends and family members to stay off of it. Safety issues in Gresham alone have resulted in the necessity for a regular, daily police presence, a financial investment that now exceeds \$1 million.

Gresham has been involved in public outreach along with Metro staff. As that outreach process comes to a close, it is incumbent upon us to take a step back and evaluate the project from inception to conclusion. Once again, it is a modern tragedy that our unsolved regional issues around housing, homelessness, and public safety threaten the advancement of shared recreational infrastructure, but unfortunately, that is where we find ourselves.

I hope there will be opportunities with the additional open space levy funds recently approved by voters to provide financial resources to local governments attempting to answer the tremendous public safety and livability burden we face in the amenities we already have, not to mention areas of planned expansion. We know the importance of shared recreational and transportation infrastructure, and want to be part of its expansion, but there is substantial work that needs to be completed in advance. Once Metro has a shared, funded, and regional plan of action to solve the current concerns along the trail and prevent them from occurring on new infrastructure as well, we would be more than happy to continue these discussions. Thank you for your partnership and willingness to engage with our residents. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Kvarsten".

Erik Kvarsten
City Manager