



CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Nick Fish, Commissioner ■ Michael Jordan, Director

April 5, 2018

Joel Leib, President
Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League (SMILE)
8210 SE 13th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Joel,

We appreciate SMILE's interest in the Oaks Bottom Habitat Enhancement Project. The Sellwood-Moreland area is a unique neighborhood with exceptional natural resources and we hope that this project will complement the work that we, and others, have done in your neighborhood.

Many suggestions and feedback we received during early communications around this project included concerns about the lack of options for bicyclists around the closure area. However, since that time, major progress has been made on improvements to the bicycle network in the Sellwood area.

During design, the project team coordinated closely with the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian trail users are aware of safe alternative routes during the Springwater Trail closure. Compared to when the project was originally proposed for construction a few years ago, there are many more bicycle route options, including:

- The new Sellwood Bridge provides a safe route to the west side Greenway Trail, an alternative for those traveling to South Waterfront and Downtown.
- The nearly-completed SE 19th Avenue Neighborhood Greenway and recent improvements along TriMet's Portland to Milwaukie (Orange) Line makes the network on the east side a viable option.

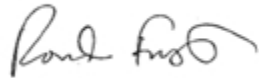
The two options listed above are not the only options available to the community. There are other routes and trails that we anticipate people will use based on their knowledge of the area and comfort level. These two options are viable alternatives, based on feedback from our partners at PBOT and Portland Parks & Recreation, that can safely handle the increased traffic due to the closure.

After a thoughtful evaluation of your request, and after re-evaluating our plan for signage and route options with our project team, we believe that spending additional project funds on temporary bike lanes on SE Milwaukie between SE Reedway and SE Mitchell (in particular, between SE Reedway and SE Insley), is outside the scope of the project. Nor would it necessarily provide a better alternative to the established SE 19th Avenue Greenway route. We also believe that removing parking along this stretch would disrupt commercial and residential activities on that corridor, as well.

Regarding improvements at SE Bybee & 14th, the project team feels that it is also beyond the scope of the Oaks Bottom project to contribute to improvements at that intersection. When it's fully complete this Spring, the SE 19th Avenue Greenway will include new crossing treatments, signage, and buffered bike lanes that will provide a space designed to prioritize bicycling.

We hope that we can work together to ensure that commuters and Sellwood residents know about the Springwater Trail closure this summer and have the tools to make informed decisions about alternate routes. We also encourage you to continue working with PBOT to ensure that improvements to the bicycle network continue to be made in the Sellwood neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronda Fast". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronda" being more prominent than the last name "Fast".

Ronda Fast
Environmental Program Coordinator

Cc: Scott Kelly, SMILE Transportation Committee
Roger Geller, Bicycle Coordinator, PBOT
Sean Bistoff, Project Manager, Environmental Services
Anny Hsiao, Portland Parks & Recreation