

S·M·I·L·E

SELLWOOD MORELAND IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE
8210 SE 13th AVENUE, PORTLAND, OR 97202
STATION 503-234-3570 CHURCH 503-233-1497

February 21, 2018

Ronda Fast
Environmental Program Coordinator
Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
1120 SW 5th Ave, Room 1000
Portland, OR 97204-1912

RE: Oaks Bottom Habitat Enhancement Project Detour

Dear Ms. Fast,

Thank you for attending our neighborhood association meeting last month to present the Oaks Bottom Habitat Enhancement Project. We realize this project has been under development for several years, and appreciate the effort of everyone involved to see it through.

The purpose of this letter is to request that your office coordinate further with PBOT to provide safe and efficient bicycle detour routes during the planned 4-month closure of the Springwater Corridor. The Springwater route is heavily used throughout the year, and even more so in the summer months. Annual average daily use is over 2,800 bicycles. We want to ensure those users have a well-planned practical and safe detour on surface streets during the closure.

With this in mind, we request BES and PBOT consider the installation of temporary bike lanes on SE Milwaukie Avenue between SE Reedway and SE Mitchell. One portion of this, from SE Insley to SE Mitchell, is scheduled to have a permanent bike lane installed on the east side prior to the Springwater closure. However, the rest of the segment, and southbound cyclists, will not have a bike lane, and cyclists will be channeled to ride in the vehicle lane adjacent to parked cars. We recognize there is another possible detour on the SE 19th Avenue bike route, but this route is down a hill and three or four blocks out of direction from the Springwater, each way. The reality is that many cyclists will use SE Milwaukie as their primary detour.

We recognize that the installation of temporary bike lanes on this segment of SE Milwaukie may require the temporary removal of on-street parking. We understand PBOT will review the parking demand to determine if adequate parking on adjacent streets is available to accommodate the removal of parking for the duration of the detour.

We further request that BES and PBOT consider improvements to the crossing of SE Bybee Blvd at SE 14th Ave to accommodate the expected increase in bike traffic during the detour period. The safety of the intersection was investigated by PBOT in 2016, and a conceptual improvement plan was developed. We understand additional funds are needed to implement the improvements.

We look forward to the successful completion of this project. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this further, or if you would like to update our neighborhood before or during the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Leeb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel Leeb, President
Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League
Board of Directors

Cc: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Leah Treat, Director, PBOT
Roger Geller, Bicycle Coordinator, PBOT