



December 21, 2021

Dear Commissioner Hardesty,

I am writing to ask you to prioritize the repair of the north elevator on the Bob Stacey Bridge, which broke last week. This follows a multi-month outage of the south elevator that was only recently repaired. This means that, aside from a two-week hiatus, there has been no ADA access to the bridge, and it has been inaccessible to anyone with a bicycle that they cannot carry up multiple flights of stairs, a stroller, or cart since early September.

The Bob Stacey bridge has been open just over a year, and was built to address serious safety concerns with the UPRR trains blocking the crossings at SE 8th, 11th, and 12th for hours on end. While the facility was being designed, HAND expressed concerns about the unreliability and frequent breakdown of the elevators serving other recently built facilities (including the rail crossing at SE Lafayette and the I-5 crossing at SE Gibbs, where, incidentally, I noticed the elevator was malfunctioning just a week ago). We asked for a ramp to be included in the project, but PBOT staff assured us they had learned from the design flaws at those other facilities, and that the mistakes would not be repeated. No ramp was built.

There are no good alternate crossings for people blocked by the train. The closest accessible facility is the underpass at Powell & SE 17th, which, last time I was there, was filled with needles and burnt trash, and is still partially blocked by a city-owned porta-potty that was inexplicably placed in the narrowest part of the underpass. The underpass has blind corners, one of which was recently being used as a bicycle chop shop, which, in addition to blocking the most direct access route from the bridge, makes residents fearful of passing by because of difficulty seeing who might be waiting there.

Please fix the elevator. If that cannot be done in short order, please ask PBOT to move the portapotty and keep the underpass clear of debris and hazards until it has been repaired.

Also, please ask your staff to send us a timeline for repairs. The bridge has proven to be quite useful for residents and visitors to our neighborhood (it provides our safest route to the Post Office and Orange Line, for example, and residents of Brooklyn use it to access New Seasons and People's Co-op). I would like to be able to tell folks who have difficulty with the stairs when they can expect to be able to use the bridge again.

Thank you,

Chris Eykamp  
Chair, Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District (HAND)

Copies to: TriMet (Sam Desue)  
PBOT (Chris Warner, Matt Grumm)  
Brooklyn Action Corps.  
Southeast Uplift  
Central Eastside Industrial District

