



# STRONG TOWNS *pdx*

Everyone deserves the opportunity to  
live a good life in a prospering place.

[strongtownspdx.org](http://strongtownspdx.org)

[info@strongtownspdx.org](mailto:info@strongtownspdx.org)

August 6, 2025

## Statement from Strong Towns PDX on the Proposed Removals of NW Diverters

Strong Towns PDX strongly opposes the proposed removal of the diverters at NW 20th and Everett, NW 14th and Johnson, and NW 15th and Johnson.

Removing the diverters is **ineffective**; it is a waste of time, money, and resources that should be spent on real solutions. We know that removing the diverters will not reduce chronic nuisance behavior, enhance livability of the surrounding neighborhood, or facilitate faster PPB response times.

We are alarmed by the **lack of transparency** surrounding this process and believe that it sets a dangerous precedent for excluding community members through administrative power. This will further disillusion Portlanders into believing that their government does not serve them, and that they do not have a voice.

Additionally, these modal filters were designed and installed as part of PBOT's Northwest in Motion plan, which involved years of community outreach, analysis, and thoughtful design by city staff. This is an insult to the community members and city staff who invested their time into this process.

We cannot let this be a **precedent for dismantling future safety infrastructure** and for disregarding plans developed in close collaboration with local communities.

Lastly, many of us live in Northwest and deeply understand the public safety and livability issues at our doorsteps; we are here experiencing these issues every single day around our parks, businesses, schools, and homes. And with this firsthand experience and knowledge of our own neighborhoods, we know that removing these diverters is not the solution. Behavioral limitations, like stop signs or posted speed limits, are not enough to maintain safety. Last year, just one block north of the proposed diverter removal at NW Everett and 20th, a neighbor was hit and seriously injured by a speeding driver, despite the presence of stop signs.

Improving the Portland Police Bureau's response times does not have to be at odds with safe, livable streets in our city. We need the City to install more traffic calming measures, not remove them. Creating safe, slow neighborhood streets only enhances public safety, livability, and community vitality.

We demand that Portland Solutions **abandon plans to remove these diverters** and that the **temporary traffic diverters be made permanent**.