

From the President's Desk - Kara's View

There has been a fair bit of attention on the traffic diverters on NW 20th and Everett. The diverters were put in as part of the Northwest In Motion plan. The diverters mean that only bikes can ride northwards on NW 20th/Everett; cars must turn right. I am a regular biker and I appreciate the diverters because they make the traffic calmer on NW 20th. I think calmer, slower car traffic makes our neighborhood safer and more livable. The diverters also connect bike traffic to NW Flanders, which is our local bikeway.

According to [KOIN](#), “[Mayor] Wilson is directing the Portland Bureau of Transportation to remove the diverters at Northwest 20th Avenue and Northwest Everett Street.” He calls “the removals necessary for public safety.”

I want to be clear that I support the Portland Police Bureau and the Central Precinct Bike Patrol. I support their efforts to keep our neighborhood safe. I know that there is frequent shoplifting and other crime right outside the Stadium Fred Meyer. I just don't think that removing the diverters will reduce crime. All diverters must pass police/fire regulations before they are installed, and police can drive around the diverters when necessary.

Members of the bike community rallied on Thursday August 7th to protest the removal of the traffic diverters.



A group of diverter supporters at a rally Thursday night. (Photo: Jonathan Maus/BikePortland)

According to Jonathan Maus at Bike Portland, the removal of the diverters has been [paused](#).

I heard an interesting idea from a neighbor: The city could leave the diverters in place AND remove one parking space and allocate that space to emergency vehicles only. I am in a “YES AND” moment here. I want the PPB to keep our neighborhood safe AND I want the traffic diverters to slow down traffic on NW 20th.

I went on a civic-minded jog this morning. I jogged through Couch Park (of course!) and by the traffic diverters. There is a flyer posted there, asking supporters to attend a Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting on August 12th at the Portland Building.



One final note: One of our neighbors has turned the traffic diverters into a mini community garden. While riding by one day, I stopped to thank him for his efforts to make our neighborhood beautiful. It makes me happy to see that he cares about this little spot at NW 20th/Everett.