

Matt Wickstrom
Land Use Services/BDS
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January 22nd, 2016
RE: LU 15-279295

Dear Matt,

The King Neighborhood Association would like to register its disapproval of the adjustment request made for the proposed Vanport project at NE MLK Blvd. and Alberta St.

The request does not meet any of the relevant Approval Criteria. It does not “*equally or better meet the purpose of the regulation to be modified*” in that it allows for almost 7 times more parking spaces designed so that cars can pull directly out into the alley than would normally be allowed; it does not honor “*the desired character of the area*”, in that it greatly adds to the auto-centric nature of the development proposal; and, lastly, there appears to be no mitigation proposed by the applicant.

This project has already been heavily subsidized by the public and it does not in any way reflect the decades of smart urban planning encouraged by the City of Portland. As currently proposed, it is essentially an auto-dominated strip mall at the intersection of two major commercial thoroughfares with parking proposed right up to the sidewalk on MLK.

Allowing 27 of the 93 proposed surface parking spaces to back directly into the public alley will create very unsafe conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists and will discourage multimodal access to the site. This conflicts with the values and aspirations expressed by residents of NE Portland for many years. At the very least, we would like to see fewer perpendicular parking spots backing into the alleyway, as well as research into whether another solution, such as parallel parking, might be substituted.

Thank you,

Andrew Neerman, At-Large Rep/Author

Nick LaRue, Board Chair

Leigh Rappaport, LUC Chair

Matt Anderson; Blaire Ottobani; Eileen Kennedy; Diego Gioseffi