Leah Treat, Director
Portland Bureau of Transportation
1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 800
Portland, OR 97201

RE: Dangerous Garfield/Alberta Avenue intersection – inexpensive solution

Dear Ms. Treat:

We, the King Neighborhood Association, ask that the Portland Bureau of Transportation address the increasingly dangerous intersection of Garfield and Alberta Avenue (one block west of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.)

Where Alberta Avenue crosses Garfield, Alberta narrows from 40' to 24' while Garfield narrows from 36' to 24'. Drastically exacerbating the situation is the fact Garfield also "dog-legs" -- northbound Garfield traffic seeking simply to cross Alberta to continue on Garfield is essentially forced to make a left turn to do so.

The overwhelming majority of accidents at this intersection – accidents involving pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists and autos – is caused by this northbound traffic from Garfield darting out from the stop sign and striking, or being struck by, westbound Alberta traffic, together with vehicles turning left from Garfield to proceed west on Alberta.

There is a very simple and inexpensive solution to address this problem that will in no way preclude the additional traffic improvements for the neighborhood which we hope to see in the future.

This solution is for PBOT to install a "Right Turn Only" sign beneath the existing Garfield stopsign on the southeast corner of this intersection. This should go a long ways to reducing – if not outright eliminating – the left turns from Garfield that are at the root of so many of these accidents.

The imminent PDC development of the empty lot northeast of this intersection for a grocery store complex promises to drastically increase traffic and the concomitant dangers. While we hope to see additional traffic improvements to address the planned increase in traffic, we ask for your help in seeing PBOT take this simple and inexpensive step now to protect lives and enhance safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nicholas La Rue