

PBOT

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Feb 10, 2016

RE: NE 7th Ave Neighborhood Greenway

The King Neighborhood Association would like to add to the chorus of voices advocating for the designation of NE 7th Ave as a north/south neighborhood greenway between Sullivan's Gulch and Alberta St. 7th Ave is currently being used as a cut-through by automobile users trying to avoid congestion on MLK Blvd just a few streets over. It is also a heavily used route for bicyclists and pedestrians and is unsafe and dominated by cars in its current condition. With the likely addition of a bike/ped bridge over I-84 in the Lloyd District it will be even more important to make 7th a safe corridor for all ages and all travel modes.

Although 9th Ave has been proposed as an alternative, this idea has been thoroughly discredited by surrounding neighborhoods and, in particular, bicyclists. 9th has a steeper grade north of Broadway and also requires riding through Irving Park. Irving Park has inappropriate infrastructure for a greenway, has a very unsafe crossing at Fremont/9th, and is also not a favored route for people, especially women, traveling alone at night. Furthermore, 9th south of Broadway has no infrastructure for bicycles and passes by the Lloyd Center Mall parking garages. The mall has already stated that they are opposed to the idea of multi-modal improvements there.

7th Ave, in contrast, has a mellower grade, is efficient and direct, and has existing bike infrastructure south of —and across— the Broadway/Weidler couplet. Most importantly, 7th is *already used extensively by people on foot and on bike*. The KNA was assured as recently as last month by PBOT traffic engineer Scott Batson that the only thing standing in the way of turning the street into a neighborhood greenway was political will.

If Portland is going to achieve a 25% mode split for bicycling by 2030 (as outlined in the Portland Bicycle Plan enacted in 2010), this project is an ideal example of the sorts of investments PBOT must make to make traversing the city safe for all modes, all experience levels, and all ages. The time is now. We look forward to working with PBOT and our fellow neighbors in making this smart, urban vision for 7th Ave a reality as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Andrew Neerman, At-Large Rep/Author

Nick LaRue, Board Chair

Leigh Rappaport, LUC Chair

Matt Anderson; Blaire Ottobani; Eileen Kennedy; Diego Gioseffi

CC: Sue Stringer, ENA; Carl Larson, BTA