

To: Portland City Council

CC: Steve Novik, Commissioner, Leah Treat, Director, PBOT, Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner

Subject: Opposition to wider Hayden Island Bike Path

Date: November 16, 2016

Dear Portland City Council members:

As a resident of Hayden Island and an avid biker, I'm baffled by the proposal to build a 30ft bicycle path around private waterfront properties on Hayden Island. It does not make sense.

The Manufactured Home Park, where I live, has 440 homes, as well as 60 RV units. Most residents are lower income, many are hard-working minorities with families. Current waterfront homes are only 10-12 feet from the Columbia River dike. There's simply no room for a wider bike path around the Island.

The proposed bike plan would require the removal of more than 40 river-front homes on our Westside Park. Lautrec, our management company, says the revenue loss would kill this neighborhood as viable business. All 500 families would have to move.

Where are we going to go? We can't move. Unlike trailers, Manufactured homes are NOT on wheels. It costs \$20,000 to move a manufactured home. Most cannot be moved at all.

Here are the facts:

1. The proposed bike path would remove more than 40 waterfront homes and close this park.
2. Some 500 low-income families will be homeless.
3. There is currently a bike path along the waterfront.

Below are pictures of the current bike path on the North side of the Manufactured Home Park along the Columbia River. The walking/bike path is 2-3 ft from the edge of the steep bank which is maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. Some 40 river front homes are within 6 ft of the path. There are dozens of 30-50 yr old trees also along the trail.

There is currently a bike path by the river. I bike it daily and talk to my neighbors.

See for yourself.

(1) Here's a 360 degree tour of the (Westside) Manufactured Home Bike Path here:  
<https://flic.kr/p/GSLX6V>

(2) Here's a 360 degree tour of the (Eastside) Hayden Bay walking path here:  
<https://kuula.co/post/7fykN>



I don't own a car and generally support Portland's pro-bike Transportation Plan. But I don't want to be homeless (again).

City officials must look at the cost/benefit of a wider bike path. It would serve nobody and hurt many.

Best regards,

Sam Churchill  
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