



TO: Sen. Chris Gorsek and Rep. Susan McLain, Oregon Joint Transportation Committee
FROM: University Park Neighborhood Association (UPNA)

RE: Statewide Transportation Tour

Summary: The University Park Neighborhood includes almost 9,000 residents and University of Portland students and sits between the Willamette River and Lombard Blvd (US 30 Bypass). This neighborhood is directly adjacent to the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub.

The Board of the University Park Neighborhood Association requests that the Oregon Legislature:

- 1) Give high priority and significantly fund critical transportation improvements in North and Northwest Portland for public safety.
- 2) Direct ODOT, METRO and PBOT to create an Emergency Evacuation Route for North Portland with signage similar to Tsunami routes.
- 3) Plan, fund and construct new bridges over the Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad (BNSF) railroad tracks on Lombard (US 30), Willamette Blvd and Fessenden Blvd plus new pedestrian and emergency vehicle bridges.
- 4) Plan, fund and construct new bridge on North Portland Way and Columbia Blvd for freight and emergency traffic.
- 5) Direct ODOT to work with BNSF and Union Pacific railroads to provide a rail infrastructure that can survive a Cascadia or Western Hills seismic event (earthquake). This must include not only the bridges crossing the Columbia and Willamette rivers, but also a rail tunnel under University Park and Portsmouth neighborhoods that almost collapsed during the World Wars.
- 6) Include the owners of railroads, the Olympic oil pipeline, jet fuel and NW Natural Gas pipelines as Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub facilities which are required to provide engineering studies and investment plans needed to assure public safety and a workable freight network after a major seismic event.
- 7) Address the issue of Lombard Blvd being an “orphan highway” like SE/NE 82nd Avenue. Set a deadline for ODOT and PBOT to reach an agreement on who will own, maintain and fund this highway through North and North-East Portland.
- 8) Require that the Oregon government agencies work with METRO, Multnomah and Washington Counties and the City of Portland to set and implement new standards for earthquake safety that reflect current science and to require local governments to modify their building and engineering standards for all new construction and public projects. This would include housing, drinking water, stormwater, and transportation projects.

Sincerely,
Thomas Karwaki
Chair, University Park Neighborhood Association
www.upnapdx.org