

**Ruth Stellmacher**

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**From:** Jim Scheppke <[jscheppke@comcast.net](mailto:jscheppke@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 22, 2020 10:18 AM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Cc:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Dear Mayor and Council:

With regard to Agenda Item 3.3a concerning the proposed new right-turn lane at Broadway and Pine Streets, I need to register my dismay at reading the following in the Public Works Director's "Supplemental Report":

1.

"With continued increases in Salem's population and vehicle miles traveled, staff expects the need [for the right-turn lane] to continue to grow."

Really? So the Public Works Department takes it as a given that future increases in VMT in the City are inevitable?

If this is so, may I suggest that the City can save \$150,000 from the budget this year by cancelling the project to create a Climate Action Plan for Salem. Given that your Greenhouse Gas Inventory shows that 53% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from cars and trucks, unless the Climate Action Plan sets out to aggressively reduce VMT in the city, it will be useless and a waste of money.

We can't have it both ways. We can't be serious about the Climate Emergency and be concerned about "traffic congestion." That mindset on the part of City staff needs to change.

I ask the Council to deny the staff recommendation and cancel the right-turn lane project on Broadway.

Sincerely,

Jim Scheppke  
1840 E Nob Hill Salem  
[jscheppke@comcast.net](mailto:jscheppke@comcast.net)  
503-269-1559

**Ruth Stellmacher**

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**From:** Gary Obery <garyobery1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:15 AM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Cc:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** RE: Council Mtg agenda Item 3.3a - Broadway Street project File No. 20-303

Salem City Council,

I am writing to contest several statements made in the staff reports for this city council meeting in regards to Item 3.3a (Broadway St at Pine Street) on the agenda. Specifically:

- Supplemental Report, Facts and Findings, History: The early traffic analysis that was done for this intersection back in 2012 did not make a strong case for the provision of a northbound right turn lane on Broadway Street at Pine St. With relatively few vehicles turning right, and with an acceptable volume-to-capacity ratio, the need for the right turn lane is questionable at best. According to data shown on the city's traffic count webpage, traffic volumes on Broadway Street were lower in 2019 than they were in 2000 when the counts for my initial analysis were taken.
- Supplemental Report, Facts and Findings, History: No conclusions regarding the northbound right turn lane on Broadway Street at Pine Street were reached at the October 2019 meeting of the Highland Neighborhood Association. No consensus or vote was taken on this matter. City staff thought that the right turn lane was needed for capacity reasons. I expressed concern about the compatibility of the right turn lane with the surrounding land uses and neighborhood, pedestrian safety, and use of valuable space for relatively few right turning vehicles. Several neighbors expressed concern in regards to the planned right turn lane, and one or more neighbors may have expressed support for it. There was no sense of overall support for or opposition to the right turn lane. Unfortunately, the minutes of the meeting did not capture the full discussion.
- Supplemental Report, Facts and Findings, Questions Raised: 12. In regards as to whether traffic volumes on Broadway Street have been increasing or decreasing, the traffic counts available on the city's traffic count webpage clearly show a decreasing trend over the last 20 years. City data for daily traffic volumes on Broadway St near Spuce Street (south of Pine) show the following traffic counts in recent years:
  - 1993 – 12,380
  - 1997 – 14,490
  - 1999 – 16,210
  - 2007 – 14,180
  - 2013 – 13,790

This data suggests that traffic volumes peaked on Broadway Street in 1999. Counts taken at a site along Broadway Street near Market Street reflect similar trends. While volumes may increase in the future, they may also decrease. Most of this area in Salem has already been developed and there is little indication that land use will significantly intensify in the foreseeable future. New development is more likely to occur along areas served by the Salem Parkway or by Portland Road which will not impact Broadway Street.

Sincerely,  
Gary R. Obery, P.E.  
1610 Winter St. SE, Salem

## Ruth Stellmacher

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**From:** Sarah Deumling <sdeumling@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 7:53 AM  
**To:** CityRecorder; citycouncil  
**Subject:** Right turn lane at Broadway and Pine

To: the Mayor and City Council

A right turn lane at Broadway and Pine is a bad idea.

As a long time tax payer (31 years) in the City of Salem I am writing to remind you that we are well into the 21st century and facing a climate crisis of unimaginable proportions. We absolutely must decrease our use of fossil fuels which means LESS DRIVING (VMT) not more. Please focus city resources on all alternative (non-fossil fuel) modes of transportation. Future generations - and I - will thank you. Put yourselves and Salem on the right side of history and do not add a right turn lane at Broadway and Pine. Take a portion of the money to add bike lanes, plant trees and put in a bench or two.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Deumling

**Ruth Stellmacher**

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**From:** noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of 23cort@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 9:05 AM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** City Council Agenda Item 3.3a Broadway Pine  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Robert Cortright
Your Email	23cort@gmail.com
Message	<p>Councillors I strongly encourage you to decline the staff recommendation to pursue addition of a right-turn lane at this intersection. As Mr. Obery's analysis makes clear the proposed "improvement" at this location works primarily to move cars faster and undermines what should be our priorities for Broadway and the surrounding neighborhood: creating an attractive street for businesses and residents and making it safer and more convenient for walking. The council should also take note of the excellent commentary on this proposal provided by Erik Lundgren at Salem Breakfast on Bikes - <a href="http://breakfastonbikes.blogspot.com/2020/08/city-council-august-24th-nonsense-on-broadway-at-pine.html">http://breakfastonbikes.blogspot.com/2020/08/city-council-august-24th-nonsense-on-broadway-at-pine.html</a>. Pedestrian safety which should be paramount at this intersection, is undermined by a right turn lane that enlarges the intersection and encourages more and faster traffic. Your decision on this proposal is a key opportunity for the council to redirect city policy from one that prioritizes moving traffic to one that favors building better, safer neighborhoods for residents and businesses. Robert Cortright West Salem</p>

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## Ruth Stellmacher

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**From:** Eloise Teeland <teelandsib@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 24, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** CityRecorder  
**Subject:** Intersection at Broadway and Pine

Your proposed widening and turn lane at the above intersection will do our nice little walkable neighborhood considerable damage. Many people here walk. They do not have cars. Some are elderly and slow. That proposal would seriously damage our lovely little breakfast place, Joseys. It would take parking from their already too small lot. Could kill Joseys. Could also be a problem for the adjacent 7-11 and the businesses in their little mall. School children use that intersection to go to Highland School. The city has been systematically whittled away at our neighborhood. Now the city says they want more walkable neighborhoods. Why damage this one? Makes no sense to me. I sometimes go for breakfast at Joseys. I use a power wheelchair, as do a number of their other patrons. If Joseys survived this change it would impact those patrons as well. I already have a hard time to cross there in the allotted time. Another lane likely would make it impossible. Why do all this?

Please enter my remarks into the record when this change is considered. Thank you  
Loreen Ostrander Wells