

Amy Johnson

From: STEVEN ANDERSON <andersonriskanalysis@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:16 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Agenda Items 2.3a, 2.3b & 2.3c Marine Drive May 26 City Council Meeting
Attachments: Marine Drive Letter for May 26 City Council.pdf

Please provide the following letter to City Council for tonight's (May 26th) City Council meeting. If you would confirm receipt of this email and letter, it would be appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Steven A. Anderson, Friends of Marine Drive
andersonriskanalysis@comcast.net

26 May 2020

Salem Mayor and City Councilors
555 Liberty ST SE, RM 220
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mayor Bennett and City Councilors:

Re: Marine Drive Agenda Items 2.3a, 2.3b, and 2.3c on May 26, 2020, City Council Agenda

The purchase of three sections of Marine Drive (Items 2.3a-c) are key steps in implementing the Council's June 10, 2019, motion to purchase right-of-way from 5th Avenue at Cameo Street to River Bend Road. While we appreciate the work to-date, the City's Real Property Services Division has yet to complete negotiations with the sellers of the remaining parcels. Two clarifications by City Council members would enable them to complete their work.

Straighten the Connection to 5th Avenue

November 2019 an alignment for Marine Drive was surveyed that is not consistent with the Council's June 10, 2019, motion. The map below shows the correct alignment (yellow shading) which connects the purchases in Items 2.3b and 2.3c directly south to the intersection of 5th Avenue and Cameo Street. This other surveyed alignment for Marine Drive swings outside of the Urban Growth Boundary to the east (red shading) and was the previous alignment in the Transportation Systems Plan that takes Marine Drive along Wallace Marine Park. The City's real property staff have yet to make contact with three additional property owners in order for the south end of Marine Drive to connect with 5th Avenue.

Why is this important?

At about 2 hours and 26 minutes into the June 10, 2019, City Council meeting video, Councilor Kaser states there are two alignments for Marine Drive in the Transportation System Plan and her motion advances the alignment that does not go along Wallace Marine Park. *In this case, the November 2019 surveyed alignment for Marine Drive is the alignment that goes along Wallace Marine Park. Why? What purpose does this serve in advancing Council's motion?* At 2 hours and 32 minutes into the video, Council Lewis states the motion tells staff "to purchase right-of-way from 5th and Cameo north".

Again, the City's real property staff have yet to make contact with three additional property owners in order for the south end of Marine Drive to connect with 5th Avenue. Council direction to staff can correct this oversight.

Complete the Remaining Purchases

The three purchases in Items 2.3a-c are important steps. It is time now to contact the remaining property owners to purchase the correct right-of-way alignment for Marine Drive. The June 10, 2019, motion was not just to contact the property owners to see if they are interested in selling to the City, but it was actually "to purchase" the properties. We ask Council to instruct a more proactive approach here versus the current send letters and wait for willing sellers.

We asked that Council address the two items herein so as to see the timely completion of the stated Councilor Kaser's adopted motion: "that funds from the 2008 Streets and Bridges Bond allocated for Marine Drive be used to acquire right-of-way for Marine Drive between 5th Avenue NW and River Bend Road NW" (City Council minutes, June 10, 2019).

Thank you for approving the three purchases and clarifying with staff to purchase the Marine Drive right-of-way from 5th Avenue at Cameo Street to River Bend Road in a more timely manner.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Anderson, Friends of Marine Drive

