



CITY OF SALEM

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Written Testimony #2

City Council

Monday, March 11, 2019

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

5. a. [19-125](#) Motion to implement Congestion Relief Task Force recommendations.

Ward(s): 1, 8

Councilor(s): Kaser and Lewis

Neighborhood(s): WSNA, CANDO

Result Area(s): Safe, Reliable, and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community

Attachments: [Congestion Relief Recommendations](#)

[Written Testimony 1](#)

[Written Testimony 2](#)

Add - Written Testimony.

Amy Johnson

From: STEVEN ANDERSON <andersonriskanalysis@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:22 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Testimony for tonight's (March 11th) City Council Meeting
Attachments: Testimony Mar 11th Supporting Agenda Item 5.a..pdf

Please include the following for tonight's (March 11, 2019) City Council Meeting materials (Agenda Item 5.a.).

Thank you.

Steven A. Anderson

andersonriskanalysis@comcast.net

March 11, 2019

TO: Mayor Chuck Bennett & Salem City Council
RE: Support of Agenda Item 5.a.

I wish to voice support for Councilors Kaser and Lewis motion 5.a. (*Motion to implement Congestion Relief Task Force recommendations*). I thank them for their efforts to seek positive solutions and ask city council to pass this motion tonight. Additionally, I thank the Congestion Relief Taskforce for their hard work here.

As past co-chair of the West Salem Neighborhood Association (WSNA), we worked as a Neighborhood Association to move the work forward on obtaining right-of-way and construction of Marine Drive for Local Access and Circulation. Construction of Marine Drive for Local Access and Circulation has been a High Priority in the West Salem Elements of the Transportation Systems Plan since the 1997 Local Access and Circulation Study. Today it still is a high priority (see Marine Drive for local access and circulation on the high priority projects list both in the July 2014 and February 2016 Transportation Systems Plan Versions). Additionally, the 2019 goals for the WSNA list the following:

- Construction of Marine Drive; Encourage members of WSNA to engage with the city in the implementation efforts of Marine Drive construction, where appropriate and possible.
- Work to identify ways to reduce traffic congestion on Wallace Road; Encourage members of WSNA to engage with the city in implementation efforts of recommendations from the congestion task force, where appropriate and possible.

As for Councilors' Kaser and Lewis motion, it speaks of next steps. I suggest that a fifth item be added that looks at the feasibility of coupling the Center Street Bridge Solution Package from the Congestion Relief Taskforce with the ODOT Center Street Bridge Seismic Upgrade Project. If it is possible to piggy back this work, it may be possible to save money and avoid two separated construction projects resulting in reduced bridge crossing disruption for our community. This would include how and when to engage SKATS and ODOT.

As for Marine Drive, a serious look at obtaining right-of-way now verses building a two to three block section to nowhere needs attention. Economics of right-of-way purchase now and signaling a clear message for where new development in the West Salem Business area, including multi-family housing, can be expected are but a few of the items that could be included. It seems like obtaining right-of-way now securing a clear delineation of where Marine Drive will go, then begin the work for project design and construction has merit as well as economic benefits versus piecemeal development.

Again, I thank Councilors Kaser and Lewis for bring this motion forward. I ask city council to vote to pass this motion tonight.

Thank you.

Steven A. Anderson