



CITY OF SALEM

Written Testimony

City Council

555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Wednesday, September 23, 20 6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

**Joint City Council and Salem Planning Commission Work Session - Our Salem
project update**

2.a. [20-352](#) Joint Work Session on the Our Salem project.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Good Governance; Natural Environment Stewardship;
Safe Community; Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and
Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community.

Attachments: [Attachment 1 - Draft Our Salem Vision](#)

[Morningside NA Comments](#)

Add - Written Testimony

Ruth Stellmacher

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of richard@bluffhouse.org
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 9:07 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: MNA to Nanke Sep 22, 2020.pdf

Your Name	Richard Reid
Your Email	richard@bluffhouse.org
Your Phone	971-218-0400
Street	3242 Bluff Ave SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	9/23/20 Re: Joint Work Session today on the Our Salem project. Hello, Attached is our Morningside Neighborhood Association letter to Councilor Nanke about concerns related to this project.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 9/23/2020.



Morningside Neighborhood Association

DATE GOES HERE

Councilor Brad Nanke
City of Salem

Tuesday, September 22, 2020
Re: Our Salem Work Session Sep 23.

Dear Brad,

This work session is happening when our desire to come together as a community is strong. It comes at a time when we have the opportunity to plan in ways that weren't even possible in 1970 when the first comprehensive plan was drafted.

We want Neighborhoods to be included in community matters such as comprehensive planning; City code requires it. Our network of 17 Neighborhood Associations is a big part of our commonwealth of experience and knowledge we need in order to create a future that is "better than before".

Oregonians can be proud that SB 100 authorized citizen involvement in planning decades ago. This citizen involvement is clarified in our statewide land use planning Goal #1, "citizen participation".

To fulfill Goal #1, City code says Neighborhoods must, "involve citizens in local government planning and decision-making that affects their Neighborhoods and the City as a whole". (SRC. Sec. 64.250. - Purpose.)

City code also says Neighborhoods must "undertake an advisory role for the Council and all boards and commissions engaged in community planning and development." (ibid) And Neighborhoods must "provide input to Council on livability and quality of life issues affecting their neighborhood and the City". We are also tasked to "provide a mechanism for local

Morningside Neighborhood Association

community involvement" (ibid) and we have done so to the best of our abilities and resources.

Had Morningside been consulted we believe traffic and other problems that will be caused by current development in our Neighborhood could have been avoided. We have communicated the following concerns to the Planning Department:

Three retail centers are planned for Morningside. The cumulative affect of traffic around those centers is going to be greater than anticipated. The expected approval of a third retail center will add even more traffic. • We have proposed mitigation including the roundabout and pedestrian bridge found in our MNA Neighborhood plan.

- We have alerted staff, unless changes are made soon, Reed Rd will become increasingly dangerous due to development on Strong Rd.
- Both the Fairview Park Plan and our Neighborhood Plan include a bike/ped route from Reed Road to Fairview Park. The additional unplanned traffic increases will make bike/ped less safe.
- The apartments being proposed off Reed Rd will add a number of daily travel trips to Reed Rd that is already near capacity from only one of the three planned retail centers.
- But because the creek along Reed Rd is in the way the City is planning on moving Reed Road ROW north a few feet into the Simpson Hills.

These are complicated and costly concerns but it is unclear whether agreements about developer funding for Reed Rd projects are in place.

Morningside Neighborhood Association

But "growth" seems to be the sole criteria for the SACP at a time when the budget says "...there are simply too many unknowns to reasonably predict what might or might not impact the majority of City's revenues and expenditures." Adopted 2020-2021 budget p3.

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/CityDocuments/adopted-budget-book-1-fy-2020-21.pdf>

Should we suspend the comprehensive planning until there are fewer "unknowns" about our fiscal future?

The destruction and changes thrust upon Salem and the mid-valley challenge us to do what people always do, roll up our sleeves and pitch-in.

Comprehensive planning creates ideal opportunities for pitching in and our Neighborhood Associations were planned and built to do that very thing.

Pamela Schmidling

MNA Board/Committee Chair

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