

## Amy Johnson

---

**From:** Bargen Jan <janbargen@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2017 3:54 PM  
**To:** citycouncil  
**Subject:** Vote 'No' tonight on Agenda Item 3.3a

Dear Salem City Council --

Please count me as one more Salem citizen urging you to vote 'no' tonight on Agenda Item 3.3a.

Please add my comments to your record for this proceeding.

Agenda Item 3.3a concerns an intergovernmental agreement that serves to enable the continuance of an extremely flawed and community divisive infrastructure proposal -- a "third bridge" across the Willamette.

I say "community divisive" for a number of reasons. First, the tolling will cause many to limit their trips to downtown and shopping in other parts of Salem. While developers may love that as an excuse to build a bunch of big box stores on our side of the river, that will just serve to separate West Salem off further as its own 'town' separate from Salem. Secondly, downtown businesses will suffer -- I've heard their representatives testify against the 3rd bridge evolving proposals numerous times over the past several years. Another economic divisive force is that the bridge would offer a complete bypass of Salem from anyone westbound from the north, removing revenues to Salem businesses for any stops they would otherwise make in town.

Worst of course, is the humongous amount of money construction would take out of local residents' pockets, which they would otherwise be spending in and around the area. The already-sunk planning costs are deplorable, but the construction costs that would fall to the immediate community and surrounding counties would be disastrous.

Knowing this was coming up on your agenda, I immediately thought of you when I heard the story linked below last Friday on NPR's All Things Considered news program. It is a review of the documentary, Citizen Jane, about Jane Jacobs of NYC, who went up against the legendary and inordinately powerful Robert Moses and his ruthless destruction of city neighborhoods to install freeways and miserable housing projects in the name of 1950s-60s 'urban renewal'. I hope you listen to the 4 1/2 minute audio below, because her words even more powerful in her own voice than when printed on the page, such as these:

"There is nothing more inert than a planning office," Jacobs says in a voiceover. "It gets going in one direction and it is never going to change of its own accord." So she made it her business to "frustrate planners."

The 3rd Bridge proposals have long seemed to have a life of their own -- as if at least some city professionals consider it essential to their resume to have a 'yes' outcome. The listing I would find more admirable on their resumes (and yours, as city decision-makers) is a showing of leadership in facilitating public policy toward an outcome that was responsive to the community, based on sound

timely data, and in the larger public interest. The mega-bridge of earlier discussions was not it, and the current concept, misleadingly called a 'Sellwood' style bridge, isn't the right answer either.

Stop the steps, like tonight's intergovernmental agreement, and stop the money you are plowing into this old flawed planning process. Instead, direct such money to fixing the existing bulkheads and improving traffic flow across the current bridges. Augment that effort with other transportation tactics to mitigate the morning and evening problematic traffic. Many good ideas for doing so have been covered by others on the public record.

Say 'no' tonight on Agenda Item 3.3a. Say 'yes' tomorrow to better problem-mitigation efforts.

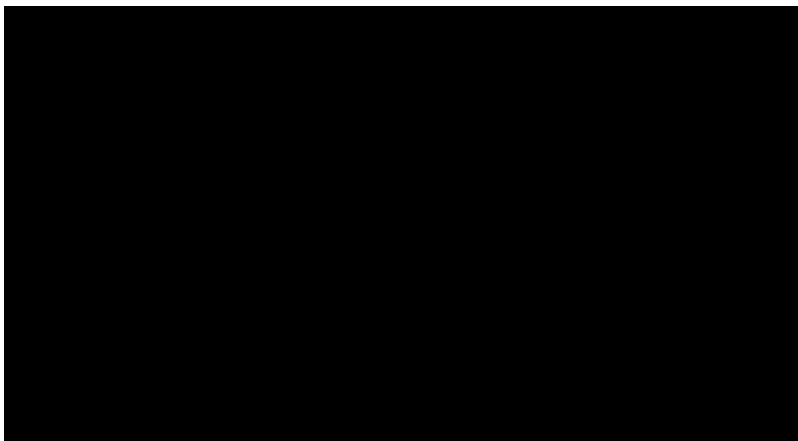
And listen to Jane Jacobs. The all powerful Robert Moses (Robert Caro's biography of Moses is thick, but a real page turner, trust me) dismissed her as a 'mother with a baby carriage'.

Well, maybe more of us are on bicycles now -- I have heard at least one mother bicycle rider with babes in tow testify to the City Council against a bridge. There have been at least a couple hundred of us that have actually gone on record through the city's public process against the 3rd bridge proposal over the past several years. Some past Council members have been openly dismissive of individuals, or the naysayers in general -- and many good sound ideas backed by good expertise have been ignored -- not a wise idea. Listen to our voices!

Thank you,

Jan Bargaen  
1440 Beaumont Dr NW  
Salem, OR 97304

### [City Planning As A Contact Sport In 'Citizen Jane: Battle For The City'](#)



#### **City Planning As A Contact Sport In 'Citizen Jane: Battle For The City&...**

Citizen Jane: Battle for the City is a documentary about Jane Jacobs, whose 1961 book *The Death and Life of Great*...