

Amy Johnson

From: Gary Obery <garyobery1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 10:24 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: RE: Council Mtg agenda: Item 3.3b - Broadway Street project

Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my concern with the plans to construct an added right turn lane on northbound Broadway Street at Pine Street. I believe that the volumes, impact to Josey's parking lot, and degraded pedestrian safety for people who live and work in this area do not justify the small increase in traffic capacity offered by the right turn lane. As a former resident of this neighborhood and as a traffic engineer who deals with street design (and ped safety in particular) in my professional life, I feel qualified to say that this right turn lane is not needed and that it does more harm to the neighborhood than good. The negative impacts of the right turn lane include:

- less space for Josey's Café, significant impacts to parking lot
- less space for trees, sidewalks, benches, etc that might otherwise be built
- more impermeable surface and higher storm water runoff flows
- Higher speeds for northbound thru and right turning vehicles which is a hazard for bicyclists and pedestrians
- The right turn lane works counter to the goals for pedestrian safety and neighborhood cohesiveness of the ped safety project just ~3 blocks away at Pine & Maple.
- The right turn lane encourages more traffic on Broadway and on Pine. Trips destined to Keizer or I-5 should use Liberty Street instead of Broadway.
- The right turn lane pits the livability of the Highland neighborhood against the mobility of folks living outside the neighborhood if not outside of Salem.

Additional reasons that the northbound right turn lane should not be constructed include:

- My traffic analysis shows that even without the added right turn lane, the intersection will operate under the maximum volume-to-capacity ratio of 0.90 specified in the Salem TSP.
- Traffic volumes peaked on Broadway Street in 1999. Without additional lanes further south on Broadway, there is no way for traffic volumes on Broadway up at Pine to increase significantly. The flow on northbound Broadway is limited by the left turns at Hood St.
- Overbuilt streets and intersections offer no economic advantage for a city, even when the projects are largely constructed with state or federal dollars. Overbuilt streets are associated with inefficient land use, higher crash rates, lower property values, lower tax revenue, and higher maintenance costs.

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

From: Obery Family [mailto:oberyfamily@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:52 PM
To: 'Gary Obery' <garyobery1@gmail.com>; angela.heritageschool@gmail.com
Subject: Council Mtg

Please submit comments on agenda items by 5:00 p.m., or earlier, on the day of the meeting at cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net.

Public comment and testimony may also be provided during the meeting via Zoom at this link: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/Public-Comment-at-Salem-City-Council-Meeting.aspx>



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