

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of lauriedougherty@gmail.com
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: City meeting public comment
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:56:12 PM
Attachments: [Union & Liberty testimony to City Council 4-26-21.pdf](#)

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|------------|--|
| Your Name | Laurie Dougherty |
| Your Email | lauriedougherty@gmail.com |
| Your Phone | 6175040016 |
| Street | 728 Church St. NE #7 |
| City | Salem |
| State | OR |
| Zip | 97301 |
| Message | Support with caution for Agenda Item 5.b. 21-167 Street Closures for Saturday Market |

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 4/26/2021.

To Mayor Bennett and Salem City Councilor
Re: Agenda Item 5.b. 21-167

My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Ward 1.

I applaud Councilor Stapleton's efforts to make Salem more bike and walk friendly and support her proposal about closing sections of Winter and Union Streets NE on Saturdays for pedestrians and cyclists (and people with disabilities) going to the Saturday Market. I live on Church St. NE between Union and D. I don't have a car, so I walk and bike regularly in the downtown area, including to the Saturday Market. I can attest that walking and biking are healthy for people and the planet.

Many cities in the US and around the world close streets to motor vehicles on permanent or temporary basis in order to promote active uses. This fosters community and connection among neighborhoods and residents; and adds an air of festivity to ordinary places and activities.

However, to make this proposal feasible, something must be done to make the intersection of Liberty and Union Streets safe. I live near there and bike or walk on Union Street regularly to go to Riverfront Park or West Salem, always with a feeling of trepidation when crossing Liberty Street. Liberty carries fast-moving, often heavy traffic. *Yet there is no traffic control on Liberty Street at all* - no traffic light, no stop sign, no pedestrian signal, no crosswalk marked on the pavement. As you can see in the attached photos, there are stop signs on Union Street along with signs that say: "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop." There are signs with the figure of a pedestrian and an arrow, but no crosswalk markings. Not helpful and not safe.



During construction of the new police station a great deal of time, money and effort was expended to reconfigure this section of Liberty St. NE (between Division and Marion Streets) to make it two-way, giving easier vehicle access to the Marion Street Bridge. New traffic patterns were created and new signals were installed at Division and Marion. But nothing was done to improve safety on Union Street.

Union Street is designated to become a family friendly bikeway. As this June 2020 [article in Salem Reporter](#) indicates, this has been part of the city's plan for years and it will be more years still before construction can begin. New signals at Union and Liberty are part of the plan. Given this, it would have made sense to install the signals while Liberty was reconfigured for the new police station, but that wasn't done. Why not?

The intersection of Union and Liberty is just one egregious example of Salem's neglect of safety and accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists and people with disabilities. Plans are useless if they are not implemented. It's time for Salem to walk the talk.

Laurie Dougherty
lauredougherty@gmail.com
617-504-0016 (cell)

The photos are looking west on Union St. toward Commercial St., Riverfront Park and the bike/pedestrian bridge to West Salem.

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Kirk.seyfert@gmail.com
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 2:13:33 PM
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

| | |
|------------|---|
| Your Name | Kirk |
| Your Email | Kirk.seyfert@gmail.com |
| Your Phone | 5035074293 |
| Street | 1560 Jefferson St. NE |
| City | Salem |
| State | OR |
| Zip | 97301 |
| Message | <p>Regarding April 26th, Agenda item 5b Dear City Counselors, I wholeheartedly support the forward thinking, family, and commerce friendly motion to connect west Salem and riverfront pedestrians and cyclists to Saturday Market throughout the summer's peak outdoor and market activity. The motion put forward by Counselor Stapleton would help revitalize Saturday Market as it recovers from a difficult year; It would also create a vibrant conduit to reconnect neighbors currently discouraged from healthy and active transportation by the segmented bike and pedestrian infrastructure east of Riverfront park. By encouraging non-auto transportation in this small way, we might improve pedestrian safety and families' quality of life while simultaneously benefiting local commerce (Just as street closures benefited downtown business this past year). I believe this motion is a great opportunity to begin to rethink how getting people out of their cars can actually benefit everyone. Thank you all for the work you do for Salem! Kirk Seyfert</p> |

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From: [Commissioner Kopcho](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: April 26 Council Testimony - Support for SOB 5b, File 21-167
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 4:06:02 PM

Mayor, Council President, and City Councilors,

I write in strong support for the motion that a feasibility study be conducted for temporary street closure of Union Street and Winter Street on Saturdays from May through October to benefit the area neighborhoods and the Saturday Market.

The tradition of recurring temporary street closures for off-peak events is one that dates back many decades and is still common in many cities in our nation as well as overseas. Temporary street closures can activate the street and showcase participating businesses and communities.

This effort, should the future staff report be adopted, would be aligned with larger public health goals and encourage residents to take advantage of parkways as recreational amenities.

As this motion simply calls for a feasibility staff report I hope it will be swiftly adopted.

Respectfully,

[Casey Kopcho](#)
Planning Commissioner
City of Salem
555 Liberty ST SE RM 305
Salem, OR 97301

Sent from ProtonMail for iOS

From: [Kirk Seyfert](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 5 b
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 2:09:58 PM

Dear City Counselors,

I wholeheartedly support the forward thinking, family, and commerce friendly motion to connect west Salem and riverfront pedestrians and cyclists to Saturday Market throughout the summer's peak outdoor and market activity. The motion put forward by Counselor Stapleton would help revitalize Saturday Market as it recovers from a difficult year; It would also create a vibrant conduit to reconnect neighbors currently discouraged from healthy and active transportation by the segmented bike and pedestrian infrastructure east of Riverfront park. By encouraging non-auto transportation in this small way, we might improve pedestrian safety and families' quality of life while simultaneously benefiting local commerce (Just as street closures benefited downtown business this past year). I believe this motion is a great opportunity to begin to rethink how getting people out of their cars can actually benefit everyone.

Thank you all for the work you do for Salem!

Kirk Seyfert
Executive Director
The Northwest Hub
503.507.4293