



December 1, 2019

To: Commissioner Eudaly

Subject: Proposed Turn Prohibition from SE Division onto SE 12th

Dear Commissioner Eudaly,

The Hosford Abernethy Neighborhood District (HAND) is deeply concerned about a proposal by PBOT and TriMet to disallow left turns from eastbound SE Division, northbound onto SE 12th. PBOT has classified both of these streets as collectors.

For those using this turn, there are few good alternatives without either venturing onto local streets or traveling significantly out of direction (the next collector heading north is SE 20th, requiring a full 16 block detour).

The turn prohibition has several negative impacts; most importantly, it severely restricts access to SE Elliot, the side of Abernethy Elementary designated for pickup/drop offs for students arriving by car. Also, it would likely increase traffic volumes on SE Orange, a narrow street used by Abernethy for students traveling by foot or bicycle. Finally, it also makes access to the Central Eastside Industrial District (CEID) more difficult for trucks on certain routes.

The alternatives proposed by TriMet and PBOT are complicated and problematic for several reasons.

The first alternative is to continue east on Division and turn south onto SE 13th. From there, drivers are expected to turn west on SE Ivon, before making a right onto SE 12th northbound. SE Ivon is a very narrow residential street, not suitable for the sort of trucks entering the CEID. If vehicles are unable to turn onto SE Ivon, they will have to proceed one block further south and turn onto SE Clinton, which is major bicycle greenway. SE 13th, SE Ivon, and SE Clinton are all local service streets, and we believe it is a violation of city policy to direct vehicles from a collector like SE Division onto them.

A second set of proposed alternatives involves vehicles turning from Division onto Sherman and Caruthers, both also local service streets. While these routes are better than the 13th/Ivon route, they too involve directing vehicles onto streets with a more minor traffic classification,

again violating PBOT policy. These routes also require crossing SE 11th at an unsignalized crossing, which would be difficult during periods of high traffic volume.

We believe the turn from Division onto SE 12th should remain as it is today; perhaps it would be possible to narrow the turn lane in order to increase the room for TriMet buses to pass vehicles waiting to turn.

If the turn prohibition is moved forward, we want to see alternatives developed that do not involve routing traffic from Division onto residential and local service streets, and with fewer impacts on Abernethy school. Just as importantly, we want residents and local businesses to be included in the decision making process.

Thank you,

Chris Eykamp
Chair, Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District

cc Chris Waner, PBOT
Thomas Scharff, TriMet
Nyla Clark, CEIC
Kate Merrill, CEIC
Paul Coleman, Abernethy PTA

