

TO: West Linn Planning Commission
FROM: Todd Jones, Volunteer on the WL Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
RE: I-205 Trail Segment in the West Linn Trails Master Plan
DATE: October 16, 2013

The I-205 trail is a proposed segment of the draft West Linn Trails Master Plan. This segment would run roughly parallel to I-205 on the north side of the highway and stretch from the corner of 10th Street/Salamo Road to Imperial Drive, providing connections between the Willamette, Barrington Heights, Tanner Woods, Hidden Creek, Savanna Oaks, and Sunset neighborhoods of West Linn. Here are reasons for the Planning Commission to include this segment in the Trails Master Plan.

- In response to concerns expressed by Barrington Heights residents, the proposed I-205 trail has been moved twice, each time further down the hill away from homes and closer to the highway.
- The Willamette Neighborhood Association voted 17-3 in favor of the I-205 trail in concept on September 11, 2013.
- The Sunset Neighborhood Association voted unanimously in favor of the I-205 trail in concept on September 24, 2013.
- Forty members of the West Linn High School cross country team signed a petition indicating their interest in such a trail.
- A professional forest fire fighter and resident of the Willamette Neighborhood testified to the Willamette Neighborhood Association in September 2013 that the proposed trail would aid fire-fighting efforts, providing fire fighters access to the hillside and serving as a fire break protecting hillside homes against a fire originating from the highway.
- A 2009 survey of 104 households on or near West Linn parks and trails revealed that 91 percent were very or somewhat satisfied with West Linn parks and trails, 72 percent used trails near the homes at least once per month, 73 percent did not associate crime with the trail near their homes, 86 percent did not associate “interruption of privacy” with the trail near their homes, and 68 percent said they would like current trails to connect with other trails. When asked how the city could improve local trails, the two most frequent responses were “no improvements” (34) and “wider, longer trails” (22).
- According to the West Linn Parks and Recreation Department, the I-205 trail has been laid out specifically in all three Park Master Plans adopted since 1987 and, as such, has been part of the city’s Comprehensive Plan for the same 26 years. It also is part of the Regional Transportation Plan and the West Linn Transportation System Plan.

We want this trail!

10/16/2013
24

10.15.13

~~Michael Woodard~~

Peter Goetsch

~~Roman Ollar~~

~~Cole Eper~~

~~Ernie Tru~~

~~Travis Hammock~~

~~Connor Sany~~

~~Ed Hart~~

~~Neil~~

Grayson Joseph Ollar

Hanna Moffard

Caitlin Burnett

Kayle Cambos

~~Marijo Jure~~

~~Caitlin Miller~~

~~Sally~~

Elihu Ward

Katherine Yoo

Emmalyn Leonard

Zoe Leonard

~~Dan McNeil~~

~~Danisha Owen~~

Meghan Carbiener
Michael Sullivan

~~William Caldwell~~

~~Conrad~~

Jaime Sullivan

~~Brad~~

~~Johanna Sisco~~

Steve Carmelsucker

Emily John

~~Ryan John~~

Adrienne Hohensee

Tesalynn Breault

Ellie May

allig Schroeder

~~Anna~~

Caitlin Guerin
Natasha Venezia

Sophia McFadden

Steve Logan

~~Steve Caldwell~~

~~Conrad~~

~~Conrad~~ Sierra

Megan Mantel Clark

West Linn Trails Survey

Kate Fogarty
 Zach Valentine
 Katie Longtain
 Talea Hunt

Purpose

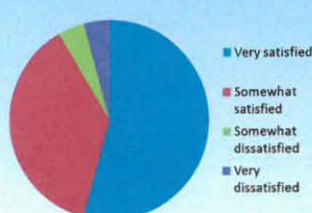
- This survey was conducted to see what West Linn residents think about having parks and/or trails near their homes.
- There were a total of 104 surveys done across West Linn in 10 different locations.

Neighborhoods We Surveyed

• Southwest corner of Wilderness Park (Oregon City St.): 8 homes	• Tanner Creek area, east end: 13
• Palomino Loop: 16	• Tanner Creek area, west end: 12
• South end of Mary S Young State Park (Mark Ln.): 6	• Willamette neighborhood near Willamette Park: 7
• East of Tualatin Nursery and Fields Bridge: 10	• River Street near McLean House and Maddox Woods: 15
• Vicinity of Robinwood Park: 10	• Vicinity of Sahallie Illahee Park: 7

How satisfied are you with the public parks and trails in West Linn?

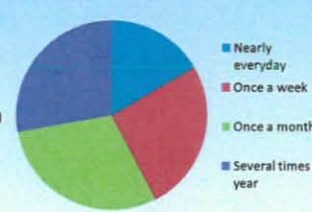
Satisfaction



a.) Very satisfied-51	■ Very satisfied
b.) Somewhat satisfied-35	■ Somewhat satisfied
c.) Somewhat dissatisfied-4	■ Somewhat dissatisfied
d.) Very dissatisfied-4	■ Very dissatisfied

How often do you use the trails near your house?

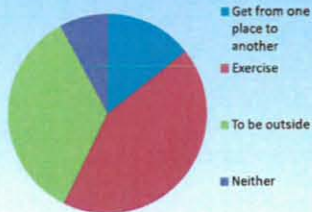
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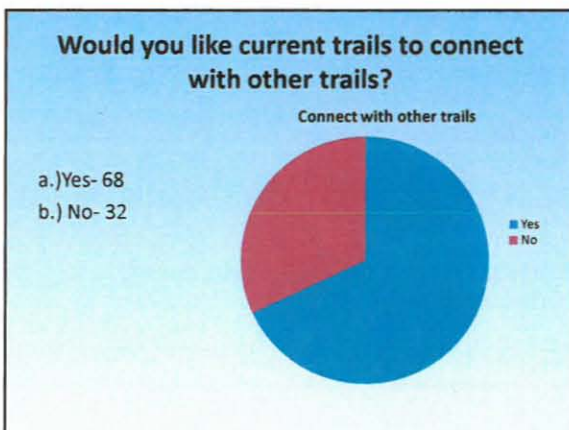
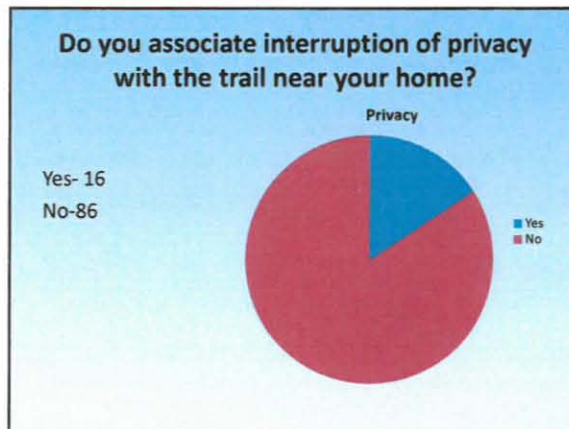
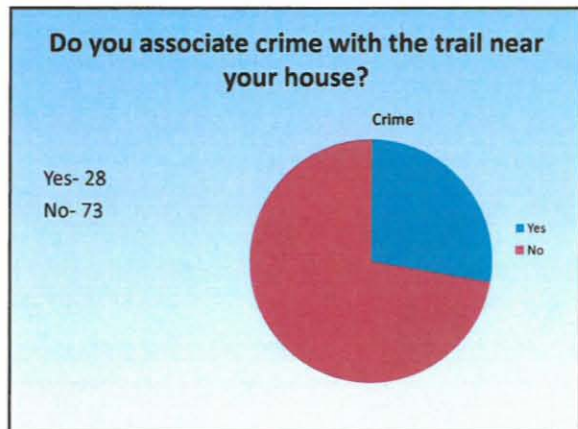
a.) Nearly every day-16	■ Nearly everyday
b.) Once a week-25	■ Once a week
c.) Once a month-29	■ Once a month
d.) Several times a year-27	■ Several times a year

For what do you use your local trail?

Reasons for use



a.) Get from one place to another-18	■ Get from one place to another
b.) Exercise-54	■ Exercise
c.) To be outside-44	■ To be outside
d.) Neither-10	■ Neither



To John Sonnen

Comments in Favor of Approval for the West Linn Trails Master Plan
October 16, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting

I, as an individual, would like to see approval very soon of the Trails Master Plan for West Linn. The plan has been under discussion for years. I would hope that there could be final agreement and approval even tonight. I am very happy that the section from the Library to Maddax Woods parking lot has been included as it had been long ago, and as it had been in the Bolton Neighborhood Plan.

Without an approved plan, it makes it very difficult to move forward to plan how to improve, how to get help and to get volunteers to work on sections of the trails that may be 'focus' sections that certain individuals would be willing to take care of. With delineation, known approved mapping, an individual would be more likely to feel they could take 'ownership' care of their section of trail to help the city keep the trails in good order.

As a Friend of Maddax Woods I hope, and I speak for other of the Friends, that the Plan is approved so we can help with that section from the Library.

As a friend of Dorothy Maddax, who hoped for a path to the Library, and who bequeathed their property to the City in order that she and Virgil, her husband, could share that "little piece of paradise" with people of West Linn, I hope for approval of the Master Plan soon.

I am uncertain that I can attend tonight, so I am sending this in advance.

Alma Coston, immediate neighbor to the 'Woods' and the Library
5798 Hood St.

Alma Coston 10.16.13

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Alma Coston, immediate neighbor to the 'Woods' and the Library
5798 Hood St.

I as an individual and friend of the "woods" would like to endorse this -

*Judy Streeter
Dealer Cr.
West Linn, Ore.*

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5798 Hood St.

*I, as an individual and
member of Friends of Maddax
Woods endorse this.*

*Sally M. Lesty
(Friends Secretary)*

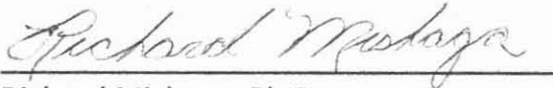
TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE WEST LINN PLANNING COUNCIL
OCTOBER 16, 2013

Wildfire Hazard of a trail on the north side of I-205 is significant and the potentially dangerous impacts are large, wide-spread, and economically devastating.

1. The extensive ODOT properties adjacent to and including the proposed R-O-W were originally oak savanna, which are native communities that occurred in areas where low intensity fires occurred frequently. It is a naturally fire prone area.
2. These properties have not been managed for fire suppression. Consequently, many vegetative species that normally would not be abundant in large numbers have invaded the ODOT lands. These species include native species, such as Douglas-fir, wild cherry and poison oak; several non-native, invasive species, such as Scotch broom and blackberry; and horticultural species, such as arbor vitae, that have been planted in quantity next and within feet of the ODOT R-O-W. All of these species listed are documented, highly flammable, wildfire hazards. Because they occur at such high densities and maintain such a high biomass, they have created a potentially dangerous fire fuel load that is spread over a large area of unbroken land. A wildfire under these conditions would be a high intensity, extremely hot, rapidly-moving wildfire. The situation would be exacerbated by the steep hillsides that would create ideal conditions to allow rising convective air currents to move the wildfire even faster up the hill and into our neighborhood.
3. A high intensity wildfire exacerbated by high fuel fire loads and fire-maintained convective winds can easily spread embers and firebrands through the air 5 miles from their source. The embers and firebrands can ignite new secondary wildfires, thus, all of West Linn and parts of Tualatin and Lake Oswego are in danger from a fire on this portion of ODOT R-O-W.
See: www.idahofirewise.org/homeowners/home-ignition/
4. There have been 2 wildfires in 23 months, August 2011 and July 2013, on Camassia Park land, less than 1/4 mile from Imperial Dr. TVFR said these fires were hard to bring under control because of sparse water source locations, poison oak and difficult terrain. Controlling a wildfire on the ODOT hillsides adjacent to the proposed trail R-O-W would be even worse due to the lack of accessibility, the extremely steep slopes with friable soils, and high densities of invasive and flammable vegetation.
5. The potential water sources to fight a wildfire on the steep hillsides are limited to only 9 fire hydrants in BHTNA stretching from Salamo to Imperial Drive's exit, roughly 1 mile in linear distance. These include one deep in Riverknoll Court and north on Beacon Hill past Wellington Drive. Outside BHTNA there are 6 hydrants in 0.4 mile from BHTNA to Sunset on Imperial.
6. The ODOT lands adjacent to I-205 caught fire that was ignited from a spark in August 2003. TVFR said they were fortunate the wind was from the north and did not spread the fire up the hill--otherwise homes in Barrington and likely across Salamo would have burned. Winds during the wildfire season are usually from the south.
7. A trail next to I-205 as proposed will NOT serve as a wildfire break for our homes and property. Further, we find it hard to imagine how it could be designed to be effective for fighting a rapidly moving wildfire moving away from the trail.

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE WEST LINN PLANNING COUNCIL
OCTOBER 16, 2013

8. The wildfire hazard would be further exacerbated by people who do not stay the trail. What specific trail design elements can reduce wildfire hazards from people who leave the trail, like in Camassia Park?
9. We would like to know the TVFR strategy for fighting a potential wildfire of this magnitude and would like to see the TVFR plan to fight such a fire. Also, what is the capacity of TVFR tankers to fight a fire through our houses from the top to the hill?
10. The City of West Linn's "Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan" in 2010 (see Map 22) said a wildfire risk assessment would be completed. Where is it? Why is there NO mention of fire in the MTP? Given the catastrophic magnitude of a potential wildfire on these lands, we would suggested that the planning commission ensure that a current and realistic wildfire risk assessment be made part of the MTP.



Richard Mishaga, Ph.D.
Wildlife Ecologist, Retired

3320 Barrington Drive
West Linn, OR 97068

Wildfire Risk in West Linn, Oregon

¹Key factors included in assessing wildfire risk include ignition sources, building materials and design, community design, structural density, slope, vegetative fuel, fire occurrence, and weather, as well as occurrences of drought. At the time of publication of this plan, data was insufficient to conduct a risk analysis. Due to insufficient data, West Linn is unable to perform a quantitative wildfire risk assessment at this time. The City has addressed this issue in the action items, and will be completing a wildfire risk assessment as data and resources become available.

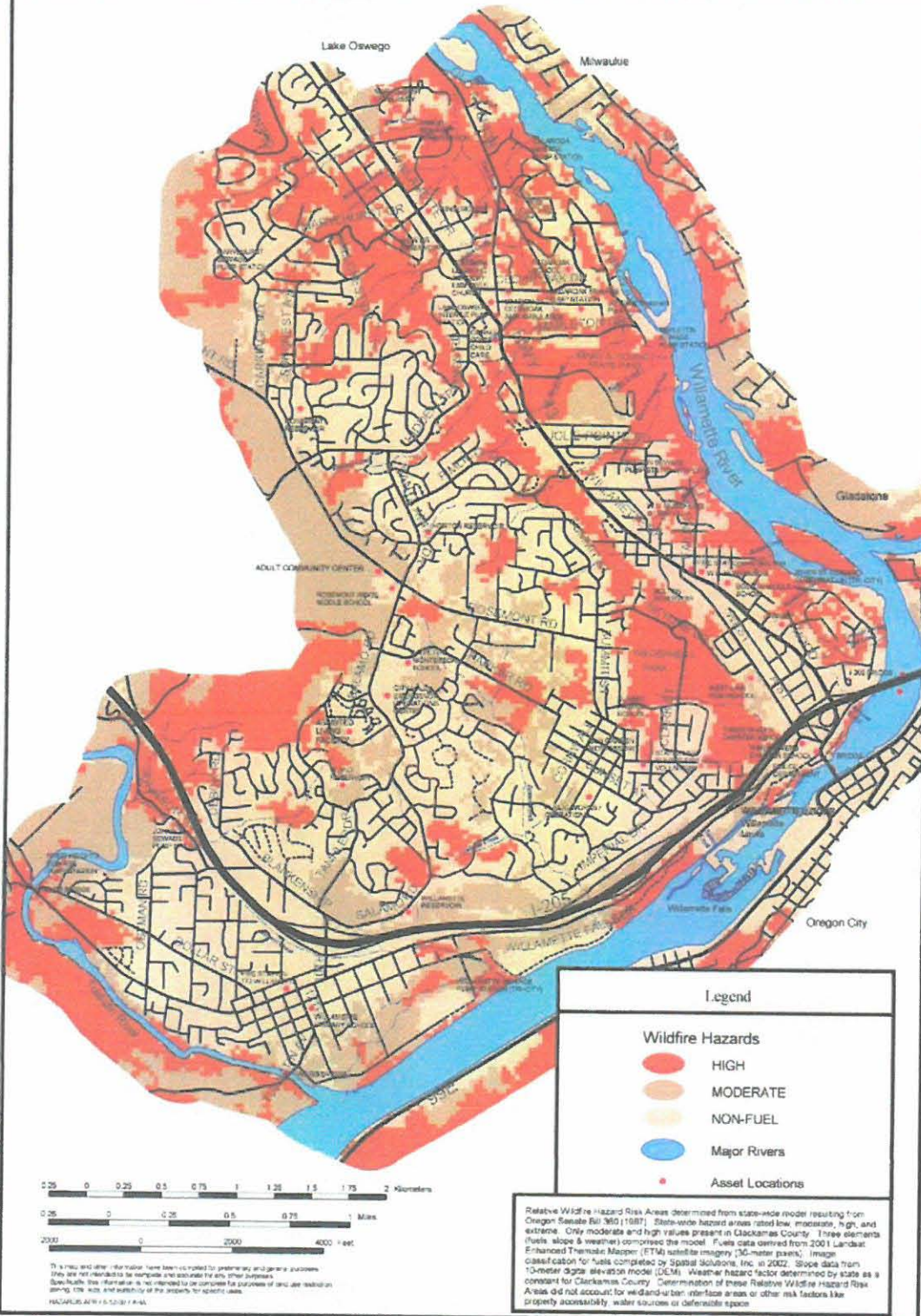
¹ From City of West Linn “Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan” 2010

The ODOT ROW seems to be considered not part of West Linn in this analysis. The ODOT ROW north of I-205 is one of the largest wildland-urban interface areas in West Linn.

- NOTE: shortly after WL citizens contacted TVFR about the hillside fire hazard in 2009 TVFR re-categorized the hillside from High Fire Hazard to Moderate Fire Hazard. See the attached map from “Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan” 2010.
- NOTE: the proximity of HIGH Fire Hazard areas to the hillside are subject to embers and firebrands that can travel up to 5 miles and ignite fires, especially on older shake roofs and HIGH fire hazard areas. See: www.idahofirewise.org/homeowners/home-ignition/
- NOTE: many homes on ridge, and throughout WL, have Arborvitae next to the hillside’s wildland area. Arborvitae are highly flammable due to the amount of dead fuel that accumulates in them, and the high oil, high resin, or low moisture content of their leaves and branches (like Douglas Fir). See: <http://fire.countyofventura.org/Prevention/WildfirePreparedness/FlammablePlantGuide/tabid/170/Default.aspx>
- NOTE: Camassia Park is a Savannah Oak meadow with some endangered plants and a pond. West Linn High School is mostly pavement, football field, irrigation systems and buildings. Why are they BOTH a HIGH fire danger areas and ODOT’s ROW with Scotch Broom and Douglas Fir is not?
- NOTE: the 2013 MTP does not mention even the word “fire” throughout its whole content. The word “crime” is mentioned only once in connection with ecological designs to prevent crime. Is the MTP a visionary document that lacks any peripheral vision?

Respectfully submitted on 10/16/13 to the West Linn Planning Commission
Steve Garner, President
Barrington Heights, Hidden Creek Estates & Tanner Woods Neighborhood Association (BHTNA)

Wildfire



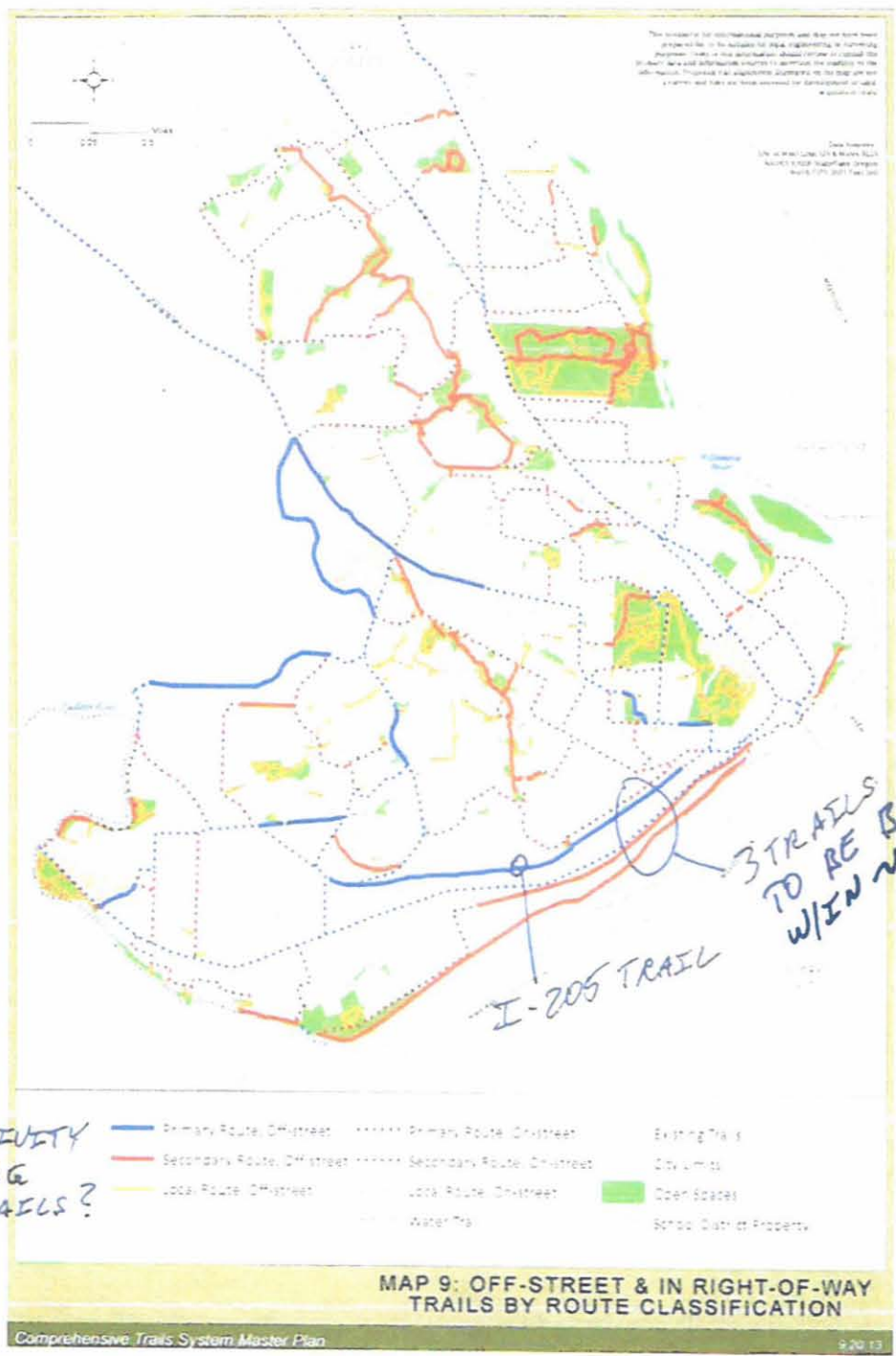


Figure 9: Trails System Change Plan

? CONNECTIVITY
W/O BLDG
NEW TRAILS?

I-205 TRAIL
3 TRAILS TO BE BUILT W/IN ~ 600 FT.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

1. Change MTP to include full land use requirements for ANY trail built on ANY land within WL, thus, allowing WL citizens to challenge and appeal ANY trail's construction/expansion/modification in any way. Therefore, the MTP is vision ONLY, NOT a pre-approval for ANY trail mentioned in the MTP (except those already built).
2. Begin a full Planning and Engineering study of the south side of I-205 as the location for the "West Linn Trail" shown in the MTP as being placed on the north side of I-205. Also, explain why 3 off-street trails are needed in the small area between I-205 and the Willamette River within the West Linn city limits.
3. The new 2013 MTP is much better than the 2011 MTP: fewer off-street trails that need to be designed, funded, built and maintained by West Linn. Neighborhood and commercial area connectivity is clearly already well served by on-street trails.

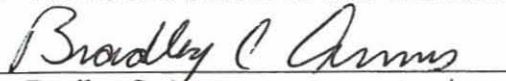
KEY POINTS OF CONCERN: of course, there are more. These seem the most likely to affect everyone in WL.

1. **Fire Hazard** of a trail on the north side of I-205 is huge.
 1. Many species on hillside are non-indigenous and dangerous, ex. lots of scotch broom has oily elements that ignite easily, many Douglas Fir which have huge fire mass that throw burning embers up to 5 miles, Wild Cherry a hardwood that burns hotter and throws firebrands, Black Berries are also a known fire hazard like scotch broom. In short, there are tons of fuel that are hotter burning and ember throwing unlike grass; it is not a savannah oak area any longer; arbor vitae (also flammable) are planted in quantity next and within feet of the ODOT ROW; etc.
 2. Embers and firebrands can travel up to 5 miles from their source to ignite new fires, thus, all of West Linn and parts of Tualatin and Lake Oswego are in danger from a fire on this portion of ODOT ROW.
See: www.idahofirewise.org/homeowners/home-ignition/
 3. There have been 2 fires in 23 months, 8/11 & 7/13, on Camassia Park land, less than 1/4 mile from Imperial Dr. TVFR said they are hard to fight due to water source locations, poison oak and terrain. The hillside is even worse due to its slope and non-indigenous plants.
 4. Fighting a fire on the steep hillside will have only 9 fire hydrants in BHTNA stretching from Salamo to Imperial Drive's exit, roughly 1 mile in linear distance. These include one deep in Riverknoll Court and north on Beacon Hill past Wellington Drive. Outside BHTNA there are 6 hydrants in 0.4 mile from BHTNA to Sunset on Imperial.
 5. This hillside caught fire in August 2003 and TVFR said they were fortunate the wind was from the north and did not spread the fire up the hill--otherwise homes in Barrington and likely across Salamo would have burned.
 6. A trail next to I-205 as proposed will NOT serve as a firebreak for our homes.
 7. What specific trail design elements can reduce fire hazards from people who

Testimony submitted to the West Linn Planning Council on 10/16/13

leave the trail, like in Camassia Park?

8. What is TVFR's plan to fight the fire?
9. What is the capacity of TVFR tankers to fight a fire through our houses from the top to the hill?
10. The City of West Linn "Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan" in 2010 (see Map 22) said a wildfire risk assessment would be completed. Where is it? Why is there NO mention of fire in the MTP?
2. **Crime** on and off a trail with EASY access to forest and brush land to hide in and live in.
1. I-205 Rest Stop was on same land as the trail. It was closed in '95 due to drugs, sex, and violence in a "hidden" facility. Trail will be 1.6+ miles of "invisible" areas close to homes with children. In 1995 there were 158, 4/week, WL police calls just to the rest stop, yet, it was also patrolled by the Sheriff's Dept. and the State Police. WL PD estimated crime at this location, alone, cost the city \$60,000 in 1995. WL Police say that over 60% of the crime in WL is by people who do NOT live in WL. Will the trail help or hurt this statistic?
2. There are multiple trail access points proposed off of Imperial Drive, at least one in BHTNA and one or two outside on Imperial Drive.
3. Police have no published plan to patrol the trail at night or anytime.
4. There are about 16 homes in the BHTNA within ~100 feet of the proposed trail.
5. There are over 45 residential structures, many are duplexes, outside BHTNA on Imperial Drive and within ~100 feet of the proposed trail.
6. There are ONLY ~13 business structures near the I-205 south side trail location proposed by WL residents.
7. Trail will provide an escape route from our neighborhoods for vandals.
3. **South side of I-205 as a trail location:**
 1. The cost to build on the north side is already over \$180/linear foot, per City's request of Metro in 2011. Spend a little more(?) and save WL homes by building on the south side--IF it must be built.
 2. Fewer WL citizens impacted.
 3. NO residences near the trail without having an intervening street, Willamette Falls Drive.
 4. Closer and a better connection to the trails in Oregon City.
 5. Bikers already use Willamette Falls Drive and a south side trail has less incline/fewer steep hills to maneuver.
 6. Provides BETTER neighborhood connectivity between Sunset and Willamette.
 7. Provides access to local businesses, ~13 near the trail, better economic impact.
 8. Trail's west end is NOT at an already busy and dangerous intersection and parking is available near the businesses.
 9. Views are better of the Willamette River and its valley to the south.


Bradley C. Arms
10/16/13

1873 Radcliffe Ct., West Linn, OR 97068