

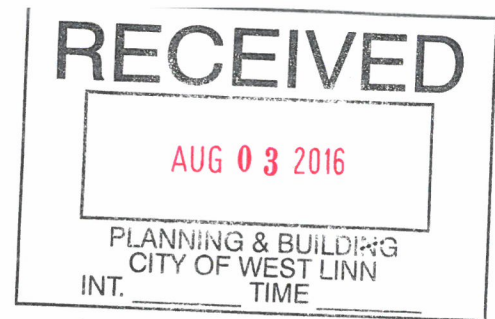


Memorandum

Date: August 4, 2016
To: West Linn Planning Commission
From: Darren Wyss, Associate Planner
Subject: PLN-15-03 – Public Testimony

At its August 3, 2016 meeting, the Planning Commission received written testimony on the proposal to adopt the West Linn OR 43 Conceptual Design Plan and associated amendments to the West Linn Transportation System Plan, amendments to the West Linn Comprehensive Plan, and amendments to the West Linn Community Development Code. The letter is attached.

Please feel free to contact me at dwyss@westlinnoregon.gov or 503-722-5512 with any questions regarding the materials or process.



Highway 43 Testimony before Planning Commission
August 3, 2016

Ladies and gentlemen of the Planning Commission, I am grateful for your time and attention this evening. My name is the Reverend Kelly Boubel Shriver, I live at 1769 Christy Court, and I am here in my capacity as the pastor and head of staff of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 19200 Willamette Drive. I have left you a written copy of my remarks.

I am someone who drives every day on 43, encountering both traffic lights at Hidden Springs and Cedar Oak, and who runs each morning between the church and Mary Young Park on 43, so I can personally appreciate the need to address the congestion and unsafe pedestrian and bike lanes along this stretch. As a representative of the church, I can say with full confidence that we are in support of keeping our neighborhood free of as much traffic and pollution as possible, and that we would be thrilled about better bike and pedestrian lanes.

However, the Administrative Commission of Emmanuel and I have serious concerns about the impact of this plan on both our church and our neighbors.

For Emmanuel, this plan has the very real potential of:

- Requiring the destruction of a safe, fenced in playground used by our church, the neighboring community, and a charter school which has been a tenant of our building for a dozen years. Without a safe place to play, the further use of our building by the school is at serious risk.
- Removing several large, healthy, and rather lovely oak trees.
- Orphaning a good portion of our property on the southeast end, by making the space both difficult to access across a road and too small to functionally utilize.
- Pushing the road on our west several feet closer to our building, eliminating a portion of our gardens and increasing the noise in our offices, classrooms, and chapel.
- Abolishing a not insignificant number of parking places in our south lot, which will have ripple effects touching on our current and future church CUP, access to garbage removal and kitchen deliveries, terminating the safe drop off space for the children attending the charter school, and limiting the total number of spaces available to commuters who park in our lot under a Park and Ride agreement with Tri-Met.

As a good neighbor within our broader community, we are concerned about:

- Increased traffic, with its added noise and pollution
- Encircling the church with busy roads, which could be very unsafe for the children attending church and school in our building and in our neighboring community.
- The effect of longer term construction taking place in a residential area

We understand that this project and the improvements are coming from a well intentioned and thoughtful place, and we look forward to working with the City to consider what might be best for both those who drive on our roads and those who live, work, and worship in the Robinwood neighborhood.

At this point, we are requesting that the city look into alternative means of ameliorating the traffic issues on 43 that do not involve bisecting the church property, causing a burden to our neighbors, and jeopardizing the place and value of Columbia Charter Academy and its students. I thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any further questions you may have.