

•S M•I L E•

SELLWOOD MORELAND IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE
8210 SE 13th AVENUE, PORTLAND, OR 97202
STATION 503-234-3570 • CHURCH 503-233-1497

August 22, 2019

Portland Bureau of Transportation
1120 SE Fifth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Attn: Chris Warner, Director

REQUEST: Reevaluate need for double yellow striping on SE 17th Avenue between SE McLoughlin Boulevard and SE Nehalem Street

Dear Mr. Warner,

SE 17th Avenue in Westmoreland is marked with a double yellow line from SE McLoughlin Boulevard (State Highway 99) to the Clackamas County line. We are requesting that PBOT reevaluate the need for the striping on the residential segment of SE 17th Avenue, which extends from SE McLoughlin Boulevard to SE Nehalem Street.

SE 17th Ave. between McLoughlin Blvd. and Nehalem St. is classified as a Local Street, has continuous speed bumps and is posted SPEED 20. It is residential in character, with a heavy tree canopy and on-street parking. There are no retail storefronts to attract visitors.

SE 17th St. parallels McLoughlin Blvd. (a State highway) and Milwaukie Ave. (a Neighborhood Collector) and provides a convenient alternative for both of these routes. Milwaukie Ave., located just one block west of SE 17th St., is often congested due to commercial activity and heavy pedestrian traffic. Impatient drivers often use SE 17th St. instead. When McLoughlin Blvd. is backed up drivers (many from Clackamas County) can veer off onto SE 17th St. and bypass the highway traffic for two miles.

Our concern is that the current striping (double yellow line) on SE 17th St. invites drivers to use the street as a main thoroughfare rather than stay on McLoughlin Blvd. and Milwaukie Ave.

which are designed for the higher volume traffic. The striping makes the street “feel” like a high volume, high speed road, which is inconsistent with its residential character and street classification.

The only other streets in the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood that are marked continuously with double yellow lines are SE Tacoma and SE Bybee. Both of these east/west streets are classified as Neighborhood Collectors, have higher posted speeds, significantly heavier traffic volumes and a mix of commercial and residential land uses. SE Milwaukie Avenue and SE 13th Avenue, the two main north/south Sellwood-Moreland streets, are also Neighborhood Collectors, have higher traffic volumes than SE 17th Avenue, and in places higher posted speeds. Yet both streets are primarily marked with a single broken yellow centerline. These four streets are intended to be used as the primary collector streets through the neighborhood.

Removing the double yellow line on SE 17th Ave. between McLoughlin Blvd. and Nehalem St. would make the road similar in appearance to the other residential north/south streets east and west of SE 17th. We respectfully request that PBOT consider removing the pavement markings and encourage the road to function as the residential street it is intended to be.

Sincerely,
Tyler Janzen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Janzen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, SMILE Board of Directors