



BIKE LOUD PDX

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FACEBOOK.COM/BIKELOUD

December 9, 2015

Dear Mayor Hales and Commissioners Novick, Fritz, Fish, and Saltzman,

We are writing on behalf of BikeLoudPDX. We would ask the city to amend its draft comprehensive plan designation for Powell Boulevard to Mixed Use - Urban Center.

BikeLoudPDX believes that the currently proposed designation of Mixed Use - Civic Corridor, entrenches Powell as an urban freeway in the middle of otherwise vibrant neighborhoods. Many of the routes to school in SE Portland cross Powell Boulevard. Because of Powell's character as a high-crash corridor, this means that many parents are unwilling to let their children bicycle to school, and instead introduce a new generation to automobile dependence.

The writing is on the wall that PBOT needs to take over Powell Boulevard; it should be expected that this will occur in the next 20 years. In preparation for the paradigm shift that will hopefully take place with the jurisdictional transfer, we should be scrubbing the suburban-style development off of that highway and replacing it with homes and bicycle and walking-friendly businesses along this important transit corridor.

We believe that re-designating Powell to Mixed Use - Urban Center sends the correct message: Powell is an urban space that should place people rather than automobiles first.

Respectfully yours,

Ted Buehler

BikeLoudPDX Co-Chair

Emily Guise

BikeLoudPDX Co-Chair