

19 December 2011

Tom Miller
Director
Portland Bureau of Transportation
1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 800
Portland, OR 97204

Rick Gustafson
Executive Director
Portland Streetcar Inc.
1140 SW 11th Ave, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

Tom and Rick,

We are writing to request mitigation for the catenary pole placed at the Northeast corner of the Broadway Bridge as part of the Streetcar Loop project. This pole is a crash hazard, narrows the existing bikeway, and makes it difficult for cyclists to share the space with other users of the shared use path. As you know, this is one of the most heavily used river crossings in Portland's bicycle network.

Unfortunately, this is not the only location on the Streetcar Loop that created compromises with the bicycle network. But it is unique, because it was implemented through a field change order, in having absolutely no opportunity for review by citizens or stakeholders.

Under an "avoid, minimize, mitigate" hierarchy of managing impacts, if in fact the impact of this pole has been minimized to the greatest degree possible, then we think it is important to provide an offsetting mitigation effort for the impacts created by this object. We would like to suggest a number of potential improvements to the bicycle network in the vicinity of this segment of the Streetcar project that could be candidates to provide an offset:

- Restriping the Broadway ramp of the Broadway bridge to provide a southbound buffered bicycle lane.
- Restriping NW Hoyt St. between NW 9th and Broadway to provide bicycle lanes.
- Removing the unused freight rail tracks where the NW Johnson and Overton neighborhood greenways cross NW 15th Ave.
- Implement a North Park Blocks bikeway by striping buffered bike lanes on NW 8th and Park and providing a crossing treatment at Burnside.



We would request that PBOT's traffic engineering team evaluate these opportunities and select the most appropriate mitigation project. The selected improvement should be implemented with Streetcar-specific funds and should not impact other PBOT budget areas.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.



Chris Smith, Portland Streetcar Inc. Board Member



Rob Sadowsky, Executive Director, Bicycle Transportation Alliance

cc: Catherine Ciarlo, Mayor's Office