

Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee

Working to Make Bicycling a Part of Daily Life in Portland

1001 SW 5th Avenue, Room 1300
Portland OR 97204



February 15, 2023

Tressie Word, Project Manager
Bureau of Environmental Services
1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 613
Portland, Oregon 97204

RE: E07383 Springwater Wetlands and Floodplain Restoration Project Planned Trail

Dear Tressie:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the approval criteria for the Springwater Wetlands and Floodplain Restoration Project (BES Project E07383). While we support the overall project, we are writing specifically in support of the planned trail that will link the Springwater Corridor Trail to SE 115th and SE 117th Avenues. We find the public benefits of this trail outweigh all significant detrimental impacts, as required by City Code 33.430.250.C.2. This transportation connection is identified in the City's Transportation System Plan and addresses several goals and policies, described in the attached PBOT memo.

We find that the trail, a classified City Bikeway, provides the following significant public benefits:

- Contributes an important transportation connection between the Springwater Trail running east-west (that connects communities from Sellwood to Boring) and the north-south bikeway to be developed on 115th Avenue.
- Serves an important part of the city's planned bicycle transportation network - filling a gap to strengthen overall circulation within the network.
- Provides access from many neighborhoods to the north to the Springwater Trail, which serves as both a transportation corridor linking to commercial centers like Division-Midway and Gateway (as a Major City Bikeway providing a safe alternative to Foster Road) and as a recreational destination (connecting to other major recreational destinations like Powell Butte Nature Park).
- Provides a safe, active transportation connection that encourages bicycling or walking rather than driving - improving opportunities for Portlanders to lead healthy lives.
- Supports lowering carbon emissions, reducing household costs and providing access to open spaces, especially for Portlanders of color, with low incomes and limited English proficiency that are more likely to experience environmental impacts and housing and transportation cost burden.

In alignment with City plans and policies, we consider this trail a clear public benefit.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandra Holmqvist".

Alexandra Holmqvist
Chairperson
Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Perez".

Joseph Perez
Vice Chairperson
Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee