

June 29, 2023

To: Multnomah County Land Use Planning Board

Re: Proposed Portland Water Bureau (PWB) Treatment Plant on Carpenter Lane

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kris Howatt, and I am the current Vice Chair of the Gresham-Barlow School District Board of Education. I have been an active director for 22 years, attending and supporting hundreds of activities throughout our District.

My letter today is to confirm that the Board of Education remains opposed to the proposed PWB Treatment Facility Plant in our District. The proposed construction timeline for this plant adversely impacts over 2400 GBSD students and their families. Our concern is with the Traffic Control Plan.

In the presentation by the PWB to the Board on June 20th, no further information was presented regarding safe transport of our students to and from school, as requested in a previous conversation with our District Leadership and our Transportation Services (school buses) Manager. Under ORS 327.043, the School District is required to provide safe and TIMELY transportation to ALL students.

At issue is the Traffic Control Plan (TCP), and the incomplete nature of this plan.

The only information that has been provided is a partial traffic analysis regarding the timeframe for drop-off/pick-up adjustments for students/parents (*providing a protected time of 20 minutes around school start/end times at the school*).

The Traffic Analysis and Traffic Control Plan fails to address the following issues:

1. Activities and functions happen before and after school (limited-schedule classes and co-curricular events) predominantly at the High School Level, but also the Middle School level.
2. The buses travel through the construction zones to pick up students (incurring time delays).
3. Students cannot walk safely to a bus pickup zone outside their regular bus stop.
4. Transportation of Special Needs students who cannot walk safely away from their stop.
5. Buses are shared between routes; a delay in the first run, compounds the second run, and is extreme by the third run, resulting in lost student education time, and a financial cost to the district when students remain in the building beyond dismissal time.
6. The roads that will be used during the construction are Rural Roads, defined as:
 - Having blind or obstructed curves
 - Narrow widths, No shoulder or guard rails
 - Higher posted or assumed speed limits
 - Soft surfaces such as gravel or dirt, rough or damaged surfaces
 - Unusually steep hills or sharp curves

This definition matches the roads under consideration. Roads that have these characteristics are not suitable nor safe for students to walk on or *RideShare* for biking. And according to a February 2022 ODOT study, Rural Roads have a greater potential for more severe accidents.



PWB Written testimony - June 30 Hearing

1 message

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Thu, Jun 29, 2023 at 12:51 PM

To: LUP-Comments@multco.us



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Kris Howatt (she/her)

Director: Position 2-Zone 3

Vice Chair 2022-2023

OSBA Representative - Multnomah Region

Where the Board has not made a formal decision, responses from individual Board members reflect their personal views and may not reflect the final action of the Board of the Gresham-Barlow School District.

"Inspire and Empower Each Student"



PWB Hearing June 30 Response.pdf

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