



Comment from: PWB Treatment Plant - 143194

1 message

Webform via Multnomah County <webmaster@multco.us>

Thu, Jun 29, 2023 at 12:00 PM

Reply-To: Webform <webmaster@multco.us>

To: LUP-Comments@multco.us

Submitted on Thursday, June 29, 2023 - 11:59am

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Testimony:

The Gresham-Barlow School Board passed Resolution No. 2023-09 on March 1, 2023 which stated the District is opposed to the construction of a water treatment plant in our district due to our concerns about the safety of our students both during construction and also during the operation of the facility.

The Portland Water Bureau (PWB) made a presentation at our June 20th meeting. After more than an hour of PWB staff providing information, the Board is now more opposed to this project than at the time we passed the resolution.

The concerns of Gresham-Barlow School District as stated in the resolution were 1) there are no specific plans to ensure student and community safety; 2) there are no specific plans to mitigate traffic concerns, and 3) there are no specific plans for running buses while roads are torn open to lay pipe.

The information provided by PWB staff during the presentation did not provide specific plans to address each of these concerns. The presentation consisted of only assumptions and intentions. Assumptions and intentions are not plans. These issues must be addressed before this project is allowed to move forward. Below is a short list of additional concerns from the June 20th meeting:

-PWB stated they would not work within a 20 minute window of drop off and pick-up. They never admitted that the 20 minutes was required by the Multnomah County Transportation Division and not suggested by the PWB staff. It was asked if PWB would consider a 40 minute window regardless of cost. We did not get a response.

-Requesting a meeting with the Board just before the hearing does not bode well for a true partnership. We do not have confidence PWB will provide adequate solutions to the safety issues affecting our students. Particularly because it appears the meeting was requested only because it was required. Because we do not have that confidence, it is even more critical that their plans be developed and vetted before this project is approved.

-When asked what plans were in place in the event of emergencies, the only response was their staff trains now and will continue to do so. It should be required to produce specific training plans. There will be an added requirement of EMS response. GBSD must require that Fire District 10 be committed and prepared to respond to any emergencies that affect our students.

-PWB had no information about whether any of the chemicals would require an evacuation in the event of a spill. Given that the Multnomah County Transportation Division stated: "County Transportation has no jurisdiction over the transportation of hazardous materials." Whose responsibility will it be? If PWB, they must be required to identify every scenario and a plan in place before this project is approved.

- PWB said the roads would be shared with pedestrians which include our students. The roads are simply not big enough to accommodate construction and other traffic, let alone pedestrians/students.

-There was no discussion of the long term impact to the roads after years of accommodating the increased traffic of trucks with that type of tonnage. The estimate for just the 5+ year construction period is 308,000 heavy truck trips and over 700,000 workforce trips to these roads. That means a disruption to our students trying to get to school in private cars as well as buses.

Our biggest concern is the traffic analysis. It does not accurately reflect what the impact on our schools will be. We submit the following information to validate our concern:

-The study was done on 2 separate days. Thursday, Feb 28th and Wednesday, March 15th. Both days the study was done from 7-9 am and 4-6 pm. Our schools are all out by 4 pm and most buses are done with routes by then with the

exception of a couple of middle school buses. That leaves only the 7-9 am time to assess school disruption and on Wednesdays the elementary and middle school do not start until 9:35 and 10:05. Additionally, the high school has activities through the evening, and most often, every evening.

- The highest volume intersections in regards to our schools were not assessed at all.
- 302nd at Dodge Park (this in the intersection that cars line up at to pick up from East Orient - EOES)
- Orient Dr. at Short Rd (directly in front of West Orient - WOMS)
- Orient Dr. at Bluff (the other side of West Orient and through traffic from EOES to WOMS)
- Lusted Road at 282nd (assuming trucks will be turning onto Lusted Rd at this intersection after either coming east on Powell or south on Troutdale Rd)
- Powell Rd at Kane (right next to Gordon Russell Middle School - GRMS. If trucks come up Kane this will interfere with traffic at GRMS and further down Powell trucks would also pass Powell Valley)
- Orient at Chase Rd (If trucks continue on Kane which turns into Orient they will interfere with buses leaving Kelly Creek from Chase Rd)

None of these intersections were part of the study

The presentation provided by PWB on June 20th did not allay any of our concerns. The traffic study is completely inadequate to assess the impact to our students and schools. There are also no specific plans in place to assure that our students and families will be able to get to school and back home safely.

The Gresham-Barlow School Board insists that PWB be required to develop and create specific plans to confirm there will be limited impact to Gresham-Barlow students and schools. The traffic study must be redone with appropriate assessments.

We are now more than ever, opposed to this project.

Cathy Keathley, on behalf of
The Gresham-Barlow School Board