

April 10th 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer comments about case number SUB-ADJ19-02. My name is Josie Riggle and I reside at 865 Salem Heights Ave. S., Salem, OR 97302. I have lived in this location along with my husband and two children for the past 5 years.

I have concerns relating to a proposed new subdivision of homes adjacent to Salem Heights Avenue South. This road is subject to a great deal commuter traffic every day. The speed limit is 25 mph, which is rarely adhered to by drivers. Without sidewalks, this causes huge safety concerns for both children and adults. For example, we live within 1 mile of Candalaria Elementary and therefore do not qualify for bus transportation. There is no safe walking route my children to take to school. They must walk close to or on the road, as cars unsafely speed by.

This problem affects several neighborhood children who walk to school or their bus stop along the road each day. During the winter months, the children have to be at their bus stop when it is still dark. I recall a time when I saw a student walking up the hill in the dark. He had to trudge through bushes to avoid being hit by a car.

The new subdivision, if approved, will cause an influx of traffic (an estimated 315 more car trips each day). This will further comprise the safety of children and individuals who have no choice but to walk directly on the road. If the city chooses to approve this subdivision, it must take into account the impact it will have on the neighborhood. Improvements must be made to Salem Heights Avenue South. Not merely the section of road abutting the new development, but the road as a whole. Specifically the road needs a sidewalk, a permanent speed radar, and possibly speed bumps.

According to the strategic plan of Salem, the vision for our city includes safety and livability. The mission also states it should provide services to enrich neighborhoods.

Please take into account the safety of residents of all ages and take measures to improve Salem Heights Avenue South before approving a new subdivision in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Josie Riggle
josieriggle@gmail.com