

Jeanine Stice
3365 Sunridge Drive
Salem OR 97302

July 22, 2019

TO: Members of Salem City Council
RE: CASE NO SUB-ADJ19-02

My Name is Jeanine Stice. I live at 3365 Sunridge Drive. We have lived on property bordering by Sunridge for 18 years. Sunridge Drive is a short drive, similar to an alley, that intersects with Salem Heights Ave and is approximately 2 blocks in length before it intersects with other neighborhood streets, Hansen Ave, or Biegler Ave, which is off of Madrona.

This is a tight neighborhood with very narrow streets running off of Salem Heights, with the exception of those streets that run north, connecting to Hansen which is one of the collector streets that is developed and has two lanes with parking space and sidewalks on both sides of the streets in addition to good visibility when compared to Salem Heights. Salem Heights is very undeveloped, very narrow, and very poor visibility due to its hilly terrain compared to Hansen.

This is reason I share support for a third option proposed by the developer Wren Heights and supported by many in the SWAN community at our most recent meeting this past May. The proposed alternative that includes limiting the exit from Wren Heights on the Salem Heights side, so that access in and out of the division is limited to pedestrians and bicycles; in short active transportation.

Promoting active transportation city wide, but especially the to and from area schools and neighborhood destinations has been cited as a goal by the City in both its planning meetings as well as discussion on climate concerns. The timing of this division is an opportune time to examine how limiting subdivision access to promote increased walking and biking as opposed to automobiles would impact car trips to and from a subdivision of this size. It also would serve to increase the safety of the children taking that route as there most likely would be less automobiles on a street that will not be up to traditional collector street standards for several years.

Without the physical diversion at the entrance for automobiles, the exit and entrance from Salem Heights into the subdivision would most likely be the one most highly utilized for the simple fact it includes one turn, and drivers most likely would take a simple right if driving their children to school and then work, as opposed to making several turns through the development and then attempting a left turn onto Hansen at an hour where there is heavy traffic at the four way stop at the intersection of Hansen and Holiday.

Ideally, everyone would walk or bike to close neighborhood destinations without having to create an environment that makes driving by automobile less convenient. However, public health research has consistently shown that policy that creates a downside to behavior you're trying to shift paired with an upside on behavior you're trying to encourage is most successful at fostering new social habits that support community health.

It is my hope as a council you will consider the timing of this appeal and this subdivision as an opportunity to foster alternatives that support slower traffic, narrower/shared bike/auto and bike/pedestrian paths for collector streets and unimproved collector streets such as Salem Heights.

This is occurring in other communities and even our own. Ewald has a shared bicycle/pedestrian path that runs along side it rather than a formal sidewalk, and the City of Redmond has created a slow road area around city hall with shared auto/bicycle on a narrow street, rather than the older rules for collector streets that include extra wide roads, dedicated bike lanes.

Allowing the exit from Salem Heights to have a barricade that is movable- like those that are on the West Salem Railroad Pedestrian path would allow emergency vehicle access if needed and encourage active transportation from this subdivision. If not, the impact could be revisited when funds are available for improving Salem Heights to city standards and provide necessary safety when it comes to designated collector streets.

Thank you for considering this option.

Sincerely,
Jeanine Stice