

Email to SW Corridor Plan
Wed 11/16/2016 9:30 PM

Good evening Southwest Corridor and Safe Routes to School staff:

As a citizen of Tigard since 2004 and a University of Oregon undergrad senior studying urban planning, I believe that the November SW Corridor plan (<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/Southwest-Corridor-November-2016-staff-recommendations-20161108.pdf>) is thoughtfully planned out for the region. I do have one request that I hope both organizations will consider: *Please consider extending the proposed bike and pedestrian corridor from SW Hall & Hunziker to **SW Hall & Durham**.*

From a safety point of view, students who walk and bike to Tigard High School will be able to enjoy the benefits from this safety corridor. As a Tigard High graduate, I would occasionally take bus 76 to Tigard TC on my way home from tennis practice, and I would see cars increase speed and constantly swerve into the Hall Boulevard bike lane. Sadly, many bikers prefer using sidewalks because only paint separates them from the cars going 40mph. Having a safe corridor between Downtown Tigard and Tigard High school along Hall Boulevard would provide low income students-many of whom can't acquire a car for age and financial reasons- with a safe way to get to school and navigate around the region.

From a networking standpoint, this route would finally be the missing link connecting Tualatin and Beaverton on the Fanno Creek Regional trail. (I am aware that plans for a connection are being planned along the creek, but those who bicycle for transportation and not leisure prefer taking the shortest possible path). Here is a link that highlights how my proposed extension would be crucial in connecting the western suburbs: http://www.tigard-or.gov/community/Parks/docs/FannoCreekRegionalTrail_map.pdf

Everything that I have just explained was presented to Tigard Mayor Cook at a Fireside Chat in the Summer of 2015. I presented the Tigard 1, a raised bicycle path (cycletrack) that would connect Tigard points of interests for teenagers who don't have a car. The inspiration came from my Study Abroad in Summer 2015, when I biked with a group of students from the U of O through Europe while meeting with Danish, Dutch, and Swedish city planners and mayors. The Tigard 1 plan that I presented includes the Tigard Bicycle Street (now the Tigard Heritage Street trail), and also connects downtown Tigard and Tigard High School. Attached is the brochure and the rest of my idea that I presented to Mayor Cook.

Thank you very much for reading and considering my proposal. I am a dedicated citizen of Tigard who is looking at making a career out of urban and regional planning. Please email me back for any questions or further clarifications. It has been my honor spending my time in a way that I believe will positively impact Tigard students and citizens with the Southwest Corridor Plan.

Sincerely,

Samuel R. Copelan

From: marcia.leslie
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Subject: Voices from the past speak to 12/12/16 vote
Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 4:04:28 PM
Attachments: [De Bernardis.pdf](#)
[Ahavath Achim.pdf](#)
[Dec. 6, "16 ltr to SWCP.docx](#)

To the members of the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Steering Committee and Project Partners --

Thank you for the considerable time and effort all of you and your staffs have put into refining, scoping and developing the DEIS which will be voted on next Monday. Yes, there are still issues to resolve and final options to determine, but the "finished product" is becoming much more promising for the entire corridor.

While reviewing old newspaper clippings collected by my late mother, I found these two which are applicable to issues under consideration. Please review them as referenced in the letter attached.

Again, thank you all for your dedication and determination.

Sincerely,

Marcia Leslie

conducted a survey and held a community meeting in March to determine what people felt the new pool should

able pool design will address water use issues, energy consumption, and storm water management.

depth shallow area. The pool will be closed for construction during the summers of 2004 and through

according to schedule the pool will be open and ready for use during the 2005 summer season.

Local synagogue seeks answers in the face of possible upheaval

By Lee Perlman
The Multnomah Village Post

For the second time in 40 years, Congregation Ahavath Achim is in the path of "progress."

This time they have one request of the city, Oregon Health and Sciences University, the Schlesinger family or whomever: either move us properly or leave us alone, and make up your mind soon.

The city is already committed to linking OHSU with a proposed satellite campus in the south waterfront urban renewal area along the right of way of Southwest Gibbs Street.

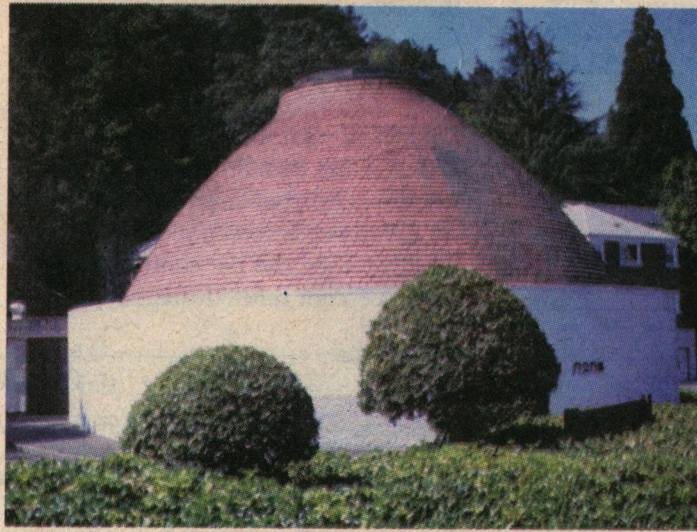
Some say the best way to make the facility a true part of a larger transit network would be to build a second tram to Southwest Barbur Boulevard.

The likely site of such a tram would be the Sephardic synagogue at 3225 S.W. Barbur Blvd., or land next to it. The second tram is by no means a certainty, but it is a possibility.

Another possibility is that the Schlesinger family may try to purchase the land for a giant parking garage, with 10 levels and up to 2,000 spaces.

According to synagogue spokesperson Richard Matza, the Schlesingers originally approached them about purchasing the property for this purpose. Ahavath Achim did not refuse, but did say that they would need relocation assistance that the Schlesingers found prohibitive. They are now reportedly seeking to purchase an adjacent property.

That creates a tremendous hardship for Ahavath Achim, Matza said.



Congregation Ahavath Achim, located on Barbur Boulevard, is a possible site for a second tramway. (Post photo by Don Snedecor)

"We don't even know if we're going to be here, and if we are we could be sandwiched between two undesirable features, which is not acceptable," Matza told *The Post*.

The issue comes at a bad time for the congregation. They are in the process of renovating the building - they've already spent \$100,000 on a new roof and other features - and they want to add a cultural and education center. Most critical of all, they're trying to hire a new rabbi. But the uncertainty of the building's future is a drawback.

"What we're saying is, either leave us alone or relocate us," Matza said. More specifically, the second option should include the following:

1. Replace the synagogue in an appropriate location with all its current features including kosher kitchen, classrooms and adequate parking.
2. There should be no disruption and

no down time between vacating the old building and moving into the new one.

3. The new site should be on the west side where most of Portland's Jewish community is.

4. The arrangement should, hopefully, be structured as to allow the synagogue an income stream.

It is a very sore point for Ahavath Achim. They were forcibly uprooted in 1963 from their former home at Southwest Third Avenue and Sherman Street by the Portland Development Commission's South Auditorium Urban Renewal Project, as was the community around them. The original plan was to physically move the building - but it didn't work

out that way.

"It was the hottest day of the year, over 100 degrees," Matza said. The asphalt beneath the moving vehicle melted, leaving it stuck in the pavement. During efforts to free it the structure cracked.

"A building inspector condemned it on the spot, and it had to be demolished where it was," Matza said. "It took us three years to acquire a new building, and we lost half our congregation." The city eventually provided some compensation, but only after the group went to court.

According to Matza, on July 18, they wrote a letter to mayor Vera Katz setting out their concerns and positions and asking for her views in writing. "We haven't heard anything yet, not even the courtesy of a phone call," Matza said. They have also approached the rest of Council, whom Matza described as being in a "wait and see mode."

Matt Brown, staff to the tram planning process, does acknowledge the issue. "It's important to make a timely decision on this," he said at a recent

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Synagogue: in the path of a second tramway?

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meeting. "This is the only place where we've put a line through someone's property. It's unfair to say, 'Yeah, we'll look at that some day.'"

Sephardic synagogues are relatively rare. They have significantly different prayer rituals

and cultural traditions. Ahavath Achim is the only Sephardic synagogue between San Francisco and Seattle, and its worshippers come from as far away as Salem and Silverton.

They could not, in other words, melt into another congregation. Nor could they live

next to a tram or parking garage, Matza says. Some religious observances, such as the Succot harvest festival or Simchas Torah, require worship outside.

"We're just seeking the right to practice our religion in a peaceful and private setting," Matza said.



Portland CC brings services to students

To the Editor: A recent letter by Mrs. Lureene Smith regarding the Portland Community College Southeast Center requires a response. I believe that some people in the community have misinterpreted the Southeast Center development. A few facts might help our citizens understand the situation.

The college at its inception made a commitment to the people of the district that it would provide educational centers close to where the people live. This commitment is consistent with the charge given to all community colleges by the state statutes governing community colleges. It is consistent also with the needs of the part-time students who comprise 85 per cent of our headcount and 50 per cent of our full-time-equivalent students. It is not feasible for the part-time student to travel any great distance to participate in a course or activity.

A center for the southeast part of our district has been under consideration by the college since 1971. The college began looking at possible available facilities in 1973 and since February, 1974, has operated a small, four-room center in the southeast area of the district which is not adequate to serve the needs of the area.

What we are attempting to do in relocating and expanding this center is to provide more complete facilities so that we can offer additional programs which the community needs. More than 160,000 people live in the southeast area, and they, as taxpayers, should be served with an adequate center.

The college's plans for a new Southeast Center have been reviewed and approved by the college board, whose members are elected representatives of the people of the district, and by the State Board of Education, which has over-all responsibility for community colleges for the state. The Educational Coordinating Commission, whose job it is to determine whether a proposed location is a duplication of effort or

whether it will have adverse impact on other educational segments, has been considering the Southeast Center proposal since August of this year.

The college operates four major college-owned facilities (Sylvania, Cascade, Rock Creek, and two separate buildings downtown), and small rented centers in the Southeast, St. Helens and Forest Grove. In addition, it uses more than 100 different community facilities through the cooperation of schools, churches and other agencies. However, because the college enrolls more than 65,000 students each year — equivalent to more than 15,500 full-time students — our facilities are used to a maximum.

Each of our major centers provides programs in general education, adult education and student services so that most students can get to classes without traveling a great distance. However, in order to provide quality education at minimum cost, the college has a policy of not duplicating expensive facilities for vocational programs in its centers. These vocational programs are allocated among the centers to give each geographical area of the district some access to vocational education without having to travel to another area of the district. If a student wants a particular vocational program not offered in a nearby center, he has to travel to where the program is offered.

The college does consider the interests of its taxpayers in planning facilities. If allowed to expand its services in the southeast area, the college will acquire an existing facility. We have no plans for buying land and constructing a new campus. I can assure our taxpayers that we are cognizant of the increasing tax burden on them. I would like to point out that we are still operating within the tax base which was voted in 1968 for operation and for construction and acquisition of facilities, and our cost per student is the lowest in the state.

I realize that the concept of a college as an institution sitting on a hill to which students come each day still exists; however, this is not the concept of a community college.

A community college must relate itself to the needs and wants of all of the people in the community where they live — not to just a selected few at a single location.

I would ask the citizens of our district to contact the college if they have any questions or concerns.

AMO De BERNARDIS,
President,
Portland Community College,
12000 SW 49th Ave.