



Charlie
Hales
Mayor

John
Widmer
Interim
Director

May 17, 2013

Dear Arnold Creek Neighbors:

Over the last few months, individual residents, and your neighborhood association have contacted the city to discuss access and potential citizen-led improvements to the unimproved roadway section on SW Coronado between SW 16th Drive and SW Boones Ferry Rd.

Two main viewpoints have been expressed. Some have expressed a desire to create an improved urban trail in the unimproved right-of-way to provide a safer walking route to Tryon Creek State Park that can avoid walking along Boones Ferry Road. Others have expressed concern that the public right-of-way should not be accessed by the public due to concerns about privacy and environmental impact.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation would like to remind neighbors that trail-related construction has not been permitted on SW Coronado and should not move forward without additional public process and a valid permit.

As per city and state law, PBOT would also like to remind neighbors that the public has the right to access and travel through the public right-of-way.

Construction permit policy exists for developments within environmentally sensitive areas in the public realm. This policy is administered by the Bureaus of Environmental Services and Development Services. All constructed development in environmental zones must comply with these protections.

While the Southwest Urban Trails Plan that was adopted in 2000 provides a basic policy framework, it does not provide specific process guidance for how to permit a project when there are community concerns about installation. In 2011, the City of Portland and Southwest neighbors successfully worked with the Oregon Legislature to pass a new law that reduces liability for adjacent property owners and volunteer trail builders related to use of trails in urban areas. The Portland Bureau of Transportation is currently establishing a working group that will update permitting procedures related to urban trails in Portland.

The City is aware of the active conversation related to access in the public right-of-way along SW Coronado. We believe that the work to clarify process and requirements for trails are necessary as a next step prior to any additional work on the Coronado effort. We would welcome the opportunity to attend a future neighborhood association meeting once the trails policy and permitting process are updated.

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The Portland Bureau of Transportation will announce public meetings related to updated urban trail permitting process in the near future. This announcement will be made through various means including neighborhood associations.

For more information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Raisman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Raisman
Active Transportation
Portland Bureau of Transportation
(503) 823-1052