

Open House #2 Summary

Date: Monday, March 09, 2015

Time: 5:30PM TO 7:30PM

Location: Ron Russell Middle School Gymnasium, 3955 SE 112th Avenue, Portland, OR

The US26: Outer Powell Transportation Safety Project hosted a second open house event on Monday, March 9th, 2015 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Ron Russell Middle School gymnasium on SE 112th Avenue, south of SE Powell Blvd. The open house focused on the draft proposed project footprint (or area of potential impact), Draft Project Purpose and Need statement and access management. Printed aerial maps of the corridor featured the area of potential impact (API) and current right of way lines. Attendees were encouraged to write directly on the maps to provide feedback. Twenty-seven people signed in for the open house that had been publicized through a news release, website, social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook, and a mass mailing to over 15,500 households in the project vicinity. Email notifications of the open house were also sent to the Decision Committee, Community Advisory Group, Agency Working Group and an interested parties email list compiled from previous public engagement activities.



The purpose of this open house was to introduce the draft project footprint and to solicit feedback about any potential concerns, impacts, and/or questions related to the draft Purpose and Need statement and access management. The event was staffed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and members of the HDR consultant team.



Meeting participants were greeted with a display that invited them to place a pin on a map to indicate their place of residence. This provided a visual representation of people's proximity to the Outer Powell corridor. There were several stations positioned around the room for participants to interact with or to get more information about the project, including two large aerial maps of the corridor, information about access management criteria, the Draft Project Purpose and Need, a corridor video with an overlay of the design from the Outer Powell Boulevard



Conceptual Design plan, and an interactive online comment map.

The open house was set up with a refreshments table in the center of the room with brochures, fact sheets, comment cards and staff members available to listen and obtain feedback.

The comment card featured the following questions:

- 1.) Do you have any questions about the draft Purpose and Need Statement?
- 2.) Do you have any comments about the project footprint (from the maps)?
- 3.) Do you have any comments about access management?
- 4.) Is there anything else you would like to share with us?
- 5.) Would you be interested in joining us for a bicycle or transit tour of Outer Powell Blvd. sometime this spring?
 Yes
 No
 Maybe (contact me)



Open House Overview

The open house event fell on an unusually warm, sunny March evening, and while attendance was low the opportunity was well received. Twenty-seven community members joined the project team members staffing the event. Television news media made an appearance and interviewed ODOT Project Manager Mike Mason for an opportunity to share information about the project on the evening news. Individuals from the project Decision Committee and Community Advisory Group attended the open house and spent time connecting with interested community members.

Forty-eight comments were received through the displayed comment maps, online interactive map and paper comment forms. The most common issues in order of frequency were: sidewalks, lighting, signage, crosswalks (with lights and flashing beacons), no median barriers, visibility concerns (including bushes, street parking and buses), turn lanes and trees. There were a handful of miscellaneous comments that included general support for the project, traffic congestion, potential loss of parking, speed limits and landscape maintenance. A detailed list of comments received by question is provided below.



1. Do you have any comments about the draft Purpose and Need Statement?

- “The project need statement addresses most of the concerns. I’d like to see safety access to local businesses. We live between Powell and Division and will not walk due to safety.”
- “Need better lighting at bus stops for safety. Need better street lighting.”

2. Do you have any comments about the project footprint (from the maps)?

- “99th and Powell – (proposed) new turn lane on east side of 99th – no concrete median barrier on west side of 99th.”
- “Center turn lane first, sidewalks second, crosswalks third.”
- “We would like to see a reduction of traffic, speed and collisions on Powell and Division. Billboards, signs advising no passing on shoulders and bike lanes. Better lighting and complete sidewalks. Crosswalks on Powell and Division need flashing lights. The lit signs indicating driver speed are a great deterrent.”
- “More crosswalks with light up crossing.”
- “104th & Powell has grove of fir trees preserved by Land Use/ Parks already. Don’t need wide bike lane – already have bike Blvd. down Bush St. Do not cut trees.”
- Map comment – location/area north of SE 143rd: “Approximately 61 houses served by SE 143rd (not a through street) who all access Powell. A lot of left turns in and out.”
- Map comment – location at corner of SE 99th Ave. and Powell: “Move fire hydrant.”
- Map comment – location at corner of SE 99th Ave. and Powell: “Dark and unsafe for peds.”
- Map comment – location at SE 99th Ave.: “Turn lane – don’t want Tri-Met to use this road anymore than now.”
- Map comment – location west of SE 99th Ave. along Powell: “Limit concrete median barriers.”
- Map comment – location east of SE 104th Ave. along south side of Powell Blvd.: “This grove of trees is preserved through the Parks Land Use. Do NOT cut them. Please consider trees over width of bike lanes (narrow bike lane). There is a bike path on Bush St.”
- Map comment – general: “For whole corridor don’t want a lot of median barriers, it is too much of an obstacle. It also blocks emergency vehicles trying to pass.”
- Map comment – location from SE 126th to SE 134th: “There are street lights on north side of street, but south side is dark. A lot of pedestrian activity on both sides. Difficult to make left turn onto Powell because of long distance between 122nd and 136th signals. Frequent bus stops add to congestion and buses block visibility of people and vehicles.”



- Map comment – location between SE 136th and 148th Ave.: “Long distance between signals makes left turns onto Powell difficult. Consider ‘on-demand’ signal at 143rd.”
- Map comment – location at SE 136th intersection: [Dedicated turn lane for people turning right, with a left /through lane instead of the dedicated left with a right/through lane as shown].
- Map comment – location at SE 147th: “What was project that recently required a lot of work in a hole in street?”
- Map comment – location along 148th Ave. extending south from Powell Blvd: “Sidewalks desired down to Bush St. (along SE 148th), school bus route.”
- Map comment – location northeast of SE 148th Ave.: “Trees 100-feet high – protect if possible.”
- Map comment – location northeast of SE 148th Ave.: “Bushes obscure visibility.”
- Map comment – location northeast of SE 154th Ave.: “Better lighting around bus stops.”
- Map comment – general: “Thank you for improving the number of buses going to Gresham.”
- Map comment – general: “More sidewalks on Powell Blvd where missing.”
- Map comment – general: “Signs regarding no passing on shoulder/bike/walking lanes – this is a major issue for bike riders and pedestrians.”
- Map comment – general: “Better street lighting.”
- Map comment – general: “More crosswalks with flashing lights.”
- Map comment – general: “More planting of trees in neighborhoods.”
- Map comment – general: “More parks where kids can play; picnics.”
- Map comment – general: “Speed deterrents for Powell and Division.”
- Map comment – location at SE 162nd intersection: “Opportunity for ped crossing and safe access to park.”
- Map comment – location at SE 162nd intersection: “When turning onto Powell (from southbound 162nd) sight obstructed (angle & sign blocks).”
- Map comment – location between SE 168th and SE 170th along north side of Powell: “Poor visibility and hazardous drop-off down from narrow foot path adjacent to sidewalk.”
- Map comment – location between SE 99th and Powell Garage: “Education and enforcement - DMV/ODOT materials accessible throughout corridor for “rules of the road” and ped/bike safety.”



- Map comment – general: “There is no sidewalk from the Powell Garage #9 bus stop to the skate park. Semi’s regularly park here on the south side of Powell (and why are they there?). A well-worn dirt path has formed, proving that this is a high pedestrian area.”
- Map comment – location at SE 156th Ave.: “There is a blind spot at the stop sign. Need better signage.”
- Map comment – location at SE 153rd: – “Need more visible stop sign.”

3. Do you have any comments about access management?

- “Do not have center median raised islands along the corridor. It is better to have an open lane for autos to make turns than a center raised island.”
- “Owner of property at Powell/136th (SW corner) – mini-mart, bar, pot store. Do not want to lose parking in front of grocery store. Will put store out of business. Also, do not want median barrier at intersection because it will lower the number of cars into the businesses.”
- “I’m thankful for what you’re doing. I disagree with those who complain about money spend on outer SE. We need stable businesses that are not strip clubs. Good roads = better neighborhoods.”
- “Need more sidewalks along Powell – especially for limited mobility users.”
- Map comment – location slightly west of SE 141st on north side of Powell Blvd.: “Concerned about curb they use and access to backyard through gate. Will this be designed/built to fence line? Also, city cannot maintain bushes.”
- Map comment – location between SE 136th and 148th Ave.: “Parking blocks view of vehicles turning (parking will not be available).”

4. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

- “I appreciate intergovernmental coordination and information sharing.”
- “Congestion of traffic needs to be improved. Please do not plant trees that the city cannot take care of. Save money and do it right.”
- “We would like to see money spent on our area. We have been neglected for so long and others in the city see our neighborhoods as undesirable and crime-ridden. Traffic accidents have been so frequent we don’t walk outside of our neighborhood. We need better lighting at bus stops for safety.”
- “Thank you for improving the number of buses going to Gresham. Increase families in neighborhoods, reduce crime and accidents.”
- “Thank you for the opportunities such as this open house for us to be able to provide feedback. I am willing to attend all I can and help in any way I can.”



5. Would you be interested in joining us for a walking tour of Outer Powell Blvd. in early 2015?

- Two people said “yes” and one person said “maybe – contact me”.