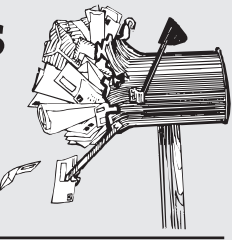


# Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post  
7825 SW 36th Ave Suite #203  
Portland, OR 97219  
Fax: (866) 727-5336  
email: news@multnomahpost.com

## BES director responds to letter regarding Multnomah Blvd sewer project

Dear Mr. Russell,

Thank you for your June 10, 2009 letter outlining SWNI's concerns about the upcoming Fanno Basin Pressure Sewer replacement projects.

The Bureau of Environmental Services works hard to minimize the impacts of our construction projects on neighbors, as well as people driving through the affected area. The Bureau will take the steps summarized below to address SWNI's concerns.

**1. Noise and pollution must be minimized.** The Portland Noise Review Board regulates noise from construction projects to protect people from excessive loud noises. The Board has granted a noise variance, which allows night work on 150 nights during work on the Multnomah segment of the pressure sewer replacement project.

The variance establishes limits on noise during night work from 6:00 p.m. to 7 a.m. The variance requires the contractor to maintain construction noise below 68 dBA at 50 feet from construction during night work.

The requirement does not include any specific diesel engine retrofits. Instead, by setting a maximum sound level the contractor will be required to use newer vehicles and equipment that have been, or can be, retrofitted with the most current muffling devices.

The retrofitted equipment will also reduce exhaust emissions. Environmental Services also requires its contractors to use vacuum street sweepers to control dust in work areas.

**2. Noise and pollution must be minimized not just in the Multnomah Blvd corridor but also on haul routes on SW Bertha Blvd, SW 45th Ave, SW Vermont St, and SW Oleson Road, and on the detour routes.**

The Noise Board did designate a haul route that will keep trucks off smaller residential streets. Our construction inspector will also document roadway conditions in and around the project area before construction starts to assess equipment impacts on road surfaces.

Environmental Services will restore any damage to street surfaces caused by project equipment after sewer construction is complete.

**3. The bike lanes and shoulders along Multnomah Blvd. must be left in a better condition after construction than before, with sidewalks and bike lanes, or at minimum, wide, walkable bike paths.**

The project scope does not include adding sidewalks or widening pathways. The contractor will be required to restore the roadway, including bike lanes, at the end of the project. This work will impact Multnomah Boulevard bike lanes, so we will rebuild and restripe them.

This project also includes construction of stormwater management features along Multnomah Boulevard from SW 30th Avenue to SW 69th. Some of the stormwater features include improvements that will upgrade pedestrian safety along Multnomah Boulevard.

**4. Garden Home Road (from SW 45th Avenue to Multnomah Boulevard at SW 69th Ave) should not be used as a detour.**

During daytime construction, the contractor will keep one lane of SW Multnomah Boulevard open with flaggers directing traffic through the work zone. When Multnomah Boulevard is closed to through traffic between 45th and 69th Avenues during night work hours, the des-

ignated detour will be SW Vermont Street via SW 45th and SW Oleson Road.

SW Garden Home Road will not be used as a detour for this segment of work.

In response to a request from area neighborhood associations, Environmental Services will use variable messaging signage (VMS) at key intersections outside the project area to give motorists advance notice and reduce vehicle traffic in the area. These measures will reduce impacts to residents on and near Garden Home Road.

Construction impacts for a project of this size are inevitable, but Environmental Services is committed to minimizing them as much as possible. Stephen Sykes, with the Bureau of Environmental Services, will continue to provide regular construction updates to inform southwest Portland residents of construction impacts before they occur. I think you will find him to be an excellent point of contact.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about your concerns.

Dean Marriott  
Director  
Bureau of Environmental Services  
City of Portland

## Somali Community

(Continued from Page 4)

like health, domestic violence, gang prevention, and spring cleaning. "We brought speakers and taught women about resources available to them," Abdulle, said.

More projects are in the works. SWNI and Portland Community Media hope to complete an instructional video tailored to Somali immigrant needs this summer. It will model a Somali family receiving financial, health, food stamp, childcare, and other assistance complete with photographs of the bus stop and agency buildings. Since Somalis often mistrust photography, finding a family to film presents a challenge.

"And, we're thinking of doing another sewing project," Abdulle said. "We need sewing machines, fabric, and space for the classes." Abdulle hopes people with resources and ideas will join their monthly Somali leaders meeting at CNN. "We meet the first Saturday of every month," she said. "People are welcome to come and bring resources. Tell us what is available. How can they engage the community?"

For more information contact the Somali Women's Association [swaofpdx@yahoo.com](mailto:swaofpdx@yahoo.com); Central Northeast Neighborhoods, 4415 NE 87th Ave, Portland, (503) 823-2780, [lula@cnncoalition.org](mailto:lula@cnncoalition.org), [www.cnncoalition.org](http://www.cnncoalition.org); Somali Community Services Coalition of Oregon 9123 SW Barbur Blvd Portland, (503) 595-0368, [www.scscoregon.org](http://www.scscoregon.org); or Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. 7688 SW Capitol Hwy Portland, 503-823-4592, [www.swni.org](http://www.swni.org).

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