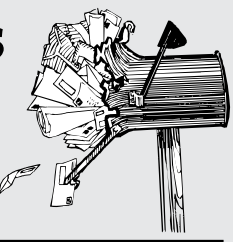


Letters to the Editor



The Southwest Portland Post
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Disparaging remarks about cyclists not helpful in Capitol Highway discussion

I'm the Multnomah Neighborhood Association's secretary. In the year and a half I've volunteered on the board, many exciting and controversial land use decisions have been made.

During this time, I have felt discouraged by numerous disparaging remarks about cyclists. I write today to remind you that the very same kinds of people who ride bikes, also drive cars, and cross streets, meaning some of them are considerate and some are not.

Personally, I am multi-modal. In my business and personal life, I may walk; bike; take the bus, train, or plane; or drive one of my two vehicles. I am grateful for infrastructure throughout the city, state, and country that allows me to live a lifestyle with so many choices.

At this month's meeting, we discussed the proposed improvements

for Capitol Highway that I believe will make it safer for walkers, bikers, and drivers.

Due to our slope-challenged street system, pedestrians and cyclists have few alternatives to move between the Multnomah Village business district and Barbur Blvd. These "alternative transportation" users aren't going away just because we didn't build anything.

As one neighborhood association member has mentioned a few times, there are kids out there trying to get to school. I invite you to remember as you travel around that the other people around you are someone else's loved one.

I hope you treat them with the same respect that you hope others are treating your loved ones as they travel around. When I get behind the wheel, the significant difference in mass/weight between a pedestrian or a cyclist and a car inspires me to think of my car more as weapon, able to kill as efficiently as a gun.

For a healthier and safer community, I hope you will both be at your best when behind the wheel and support projects, such as the pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular improvements proposed on Capitol Highway, so that we are better able to protect the health and welfare of everyone in our neighborhood.

If you've made it this far, thanks for reading. I look forward to seeing you at a neighborhood meeting sometime in the future.

Maria Cahill
Multnomah

Correction: New Safeway will be at Barbur Blvd and Capitol Hill Rd

I am a regular reader and enjoy the focused information that you provide regarding Southwest Portland.

But your story about the proposed Safeway ["Multnomah residents consider Safeway traffic impacts" by Lee Perlman, June 2011] is very confusing.

First, why do you not identify the existing store that Safeway would be replacing. At the intersection of Capitol Highway and Barbur Blvd, that seems to be either that Castle Adult store, or World Foods.

Huge piece of information, and when writing for an inverted journalistic style, such a weighted piece of information should be right there in the lead. Why you don't identify the store besides by "an existing store" is a complete mystery to me.

OK, now I figure it out. You incorrectly said Capitol Highway in the lead, and then you correctly say Capitol Hill Road further on. Better luck on proofing next time.

[Editor's Note: That was my mistake. Sorry for the confusion. -Don Snedecor]

No problem, thanks for the reply. Still think mentioning that they were

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