

One year ago, we sent out a survey to SW Broadway Drive residents asking about their concerns; between Covid and the disruption of Portland's city bureaus, it took a while, but we finally have something to report.

The big news in the immediate term relates to the issue residents reported concerned them the most: SW Broadway Dr traffic and pedestrian safety. SWHRL members gave a Portland Bureau of Transportation official a tour last month (from the Elevator Stairs to the water tanks), along with anonymized copies of your survey testimonies, statistics on speeding, and historical information; I am happy to report that they seemed appalled by conditions. We discussed the realities of reaching downtown for Broadway residents and what could be done to help, considering all the constraints involved (money and geography foremost). We arrived at a 3-part plan:

IMMEDIATE: SWHRL members cleaned, de-weeded and leveled the path behind the guardrails from the bottom of the hill to the protected sidewalk along Terwilliger Plaza; they then requested PBOT remove a section of the guardrail which prevented pedestrians from accessing the path - which was done.



Sorry for blurriness; I ran into traffic to take the photo. With the exception of the area just below SW Hoffman, you now can walk behind a barrier rather than in the roadway this whole length. Currently, this trail is narrow and has a steep dropoff, so use at own risk and with caution; PBOT is exploring how to assist us in further improving this path. It may not seem like much, but removing this section not only makes pedestrians safer, it was a big step for PBOT, involving some debate, and we thank the staff and crew who made it possible.

The official is also directing staff to find near-term safety improvements to the crossing at SW Hoffman.

NEAR FUTURE: The next step would be to remove the metal guardrail along the path and emplace a concrete barrier in line with the one along the Terwilliger Plaza sidewalk; this would widen the path considerably and allow for a fence or railing along the dropoff. This section would not have a sidewalk, but would be improved to soft trail standards, or perhaps some sort of asphalt surface. Due to budgeting, the earliest this could happen would be 2 years from now - but the process to determine approach and costs has started. SWHRL and residents will need to lobby city council to make sure this project is fully funded.

In addition, the stretch above Hoffman to the water tanks is being examined for ways to improve pedestrian safety; some shoulders may be cleaned up or modified to allow safer passage. If the condos proposed behind the tanks are built they'll have a public path from Broadway Dr up to SW Tangent. All of this work will hopefully provide a continuous, safe path from those stairs to downtown.

LONG TERM: The lower stretch of SW Broadway will eventually need to be shored up due to erosion, and at that point a proper sidewalk would be included. Plans had actually been drawn up for this, but the costs are not in the budget any time soon. And PBOT will hopefully require any infill construction along SW Broadway to contribute to pedestrian safety.

Last, we discussed how all of the constraints involved may lead to the conclusion that there *isn't* an affordable way to render SW Broadway completely safe for pedestrians and cyclists... and the only solution then would be to reduce the speed limit, and put in speed bumps of some kind. There are no promises on these two, but the point was recognized.

As for the other neighborhood concerns, SWHRL is teaming up with our downtown neighbors to address graffiti, houselessness and crime. Look to www.swhrl.org for future projects.

We will leave you with this news article from 1930... residents have been asking for SW Broadway to be made safer for a loooong time. Perhaps it's finally starting to happen.

be checked.
A petition has been filed asking the council to start proceedings for a district improvement of Broadway drive from Grant street to the east side of **Governors park** and Sherman street from Broadway drive to a suitable connection with the present sidewalk. The improvement to include all necessary sidewalks, curbs, retaining walls, rails, fences, steps and so forth. A petition also has been filed asking improvement of East 24th street from Holman street to Killingsworth avenue.
Sixteen more shippers have been added