

# VILLAGE ON THE LAKE – HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

15566 Village Park Court, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

Amanda Owings, P.E., Traffic Engineer  
City of Lake Oswego  
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Lake Oswego, OR 97034

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(3 pages)

Dear Amanda:

This letter is in regard to the City's draft Transportation System Plan (TSP) and its recommendations for new bike lanes along Iron Mountain Boulevard. As was briefly discussed with you and our board member, John LaMotte, we would like to provide the following input for incorporation into the Iron Mountain Boulevard project file. Following is a summary of the concern and ideas we have for this important roadway. If the project is to be implemented in the future we look forward to having a more expansive discussion with your department about the corridor's needs and possibilities.

We understand that the TSP includes recommendations for improving Iron Mountain Boulevard from the traffic circle at the Equestrian Center to Country Club Road with new bike lanes on each side of the roadway. These recommendations came from an earlier City Capital Improvement Plan and Metro Regional Transportation Plan. We also understand that the TSP is aspirational only and there is no funding identified for projects at this time. Getting a project in the TSP will help give it more priority in the future.

## **Pedestrian Corridor**

- Iron Mountain Boulevard is an important vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian link between several north side neighborhoods and between Boones Ferry Road and Downtown Lake Oswego. It is also a link to the Equestrian Center, Iron Mountain Park open space/trails and North Shore Country Club.
- A new bike lane on the south side of the road would require infill/widening of the roadway to gain space for a lane. A new bike lane on the north side of the road would require widening of the existing shoulder, which varies in width from approximately 4 feet to 8 feet.
- The north side shoulder is often used by people who walk, run and bicycle along the road, with dogs and baby carriages part of the pedestrian flow. With the narrow shoulder, traffic speeds, blind curves and lack of street lights as well as pedestrians, bicyclists and dogs sometimes moving in/out of the shoulder onto the roadway, residents have expressed concern about safety along Iron Mountain.

## **Traffic Corridor**

- For motorists, there is also a safety concern about getting out of the Village on the Lake neighborhood from Summit Drive due to the difficulty of seeing traffic on Iron Mountain Road because of the odd configuration of the intersection and bushes/trees that block the longer sight line views of on-coming traffic.
- It is also difficult to see on-coming traffic and pedestrians in the traffic circle due to grade differences and denser vegetation. Visibility and congestion in the circle is also a concern when several pick-up trucks pulling horse trailers are stacked up at the entrance to the Equestrian Center.
- The blind curves along with the angle of street intersections on the east end of the roadway near the Country Club also make traffic flow and turns difficult when traveling eastbound.

## **Iron Mountain Park**

- New bike lanes along Iron Mountain would facilitate access from north side neighborhoods to Iron Mountain Park. We recently had informal discussions with the Friends of Iron Mountain Park group about the poor physical conditions of Iron Mountain Park.
- Today the Park space has great trails up on the ridge but deteriorated and degraded conditions down at the ground level adjacent the Equestrian Center. It is not functioning as a preserved open space or park facility, and with good planning/design could become a much needed park for the north side.

## **Downtown/Boones Ferry Road**

- Area residents are also using Iron Mountain Boulevard to walk or bike to Downtown and the Boones Ferry Road shopping district. It is difficult to travel along the roadway and connect to trails or local streets to the west and east, especially going to Downtown.

## **Initial Ideas**

- If the Iron Mountain Boulevard bike lane project goes forward, we suggest that a comprehensive approach be taken that would assess:
  - if it is better to have both bike lanes on the north side to minimize pedestrians and bicyclists crossing at the traffic circle;
  - the possibility of adding guard rails (like wood rails in national parks) along the road to separate cars from pedestrians and bikes;
  - the overall safety of the roadway, including traffic access and speeds
  - the potential for improvements at the intersection of Summit Drive and Iron Mountain Road such as large stripes in pedestrian crosswalks, additional lighting, cutting back vegetation for better sight lines, etc.;

- improving Iron Mountain Park so that it can be used and appreciated as a special open space. New bike lanes could be incorporated into a new master plan for the Park, possibly including direct connections to the existing trails along the north edge of the park.

We appreciate your Department's consideration of the above input and at the appropriate time look forward to further discussing the great potential of this roadway and the park space. Let us know if you have any questions or would like to drive and walk the corridor with us.

Sincerely:

Evan Lewis, Village on the Lake Board President

CC:

Elizabeth Hills, VOL Board

Louise Lauman, VOL Board

Mike Day, VOL Board

John LaMotte, VOL Board (971-263-8272)

Scott Quarterman, VOL Board

Vawn McCollum, VOL Board

Ivan Anderholm, Director, Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation Department

Mike Buck, Chairman, Friends of Iron Mountain Park

Bernie Harrington, Chair, Lake Grove Association

Tom O'Connor, Chair, North Shore Country Club Association

Barbara MacIntosh, Secretary, Uplands Association