

Lisa Joy
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LD 209

Good morning,

I live across the road from concerned abutters and share concerns that:

- many were not notified of this public hearing
- compensating them for easements is not part of the plan.

My concerns are first about unsheltereds inevitably choosing an easy-access, unmonitored bike path to use for encampments as Portland cracks down on tent cities. It's not feasible for local police to manage such developments in an ongoing manner.

Secondly, I'm concerned when municipal and state government are more influenced by regional authorities and special interests than by non-affiliated community residents' opinion of record.

The benefits of trails are broad and desirable, but not without risks. This rail trail through several communities benefits bikers, to be sure, yet carries risks about potential easy invasions of privacy (and worse) to abutters and neighbors.

Survey Monkey or well-publicized meetings in each community are cost-effective means of gathering resident opinions. Surveys can be easily emailed to town email lists. Their results and those of community meetings easily published. Such should be weighed before legislative action occurs.

Until I see engagement with residents of my border town, I will have unease and concerns will remain.

Thank you,
Lisa Joy