



EAST PORTLAND LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE via ZOOM

AGENDA
June 15, 2022

- 6:30 PM Welcome and Introductions
- 6:40 PM Discussion of a letter addressing the continuing loss of the tree canopy in East Portland, through street projects as well as new building developments, to PBOT with a copy to City Council. Draft Letter Attached
- 7:10 PM Projects Under Consideration for Regional Flexible Funds and Metro Parks and Nature Bond Measure. Listing Attached
- 7:40 PM Updates

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

July 20, 2022, Wednesday beginning at 6:30 PM
Speaker will be Aaron Brown with “No More Freeways”

Adjourn

Division Safety Project (SE 80th to 174th avenues): Tree canopy

Inbox



Rodriguez Ruiz, Hector

Wed, May 25, 8:50 PM

to me, JR

Hello Arlene and JR,

I was able to find some additional information about the trees within Division St.

The project manager is Elizabeth Tillstrom. I will continue following up and I requested to be updated on this matter.

Please see below the information I was able to gather so far, it might not be news to you but for context:

“PBOT originally planned on adding trees in all of the center medians on outer SE Division Street. However, during the design phase, it was discovered that the majority of proposed tree locations would be in conflict with an underground major water transmission line and also sewer infrastructure in many areas. Based on the final locations for most of the raised center median, PBOT wasn’t able to achieve the required horizontal or vertical clearances for trees over these facilities. There are a few segments of the median that are free from underground utility conflicts. These medians will include street trees (20 total along the corridor). Also, they did not have the ability to plant trees adjacent to the sidewalk since most of the corridor has a 7-foot curb-tight sidewalk. However, as properties redevelop along outer SE Division Street, the City will require right-of-way dedication so that wider sidewalk corridors can be constructed with planting strips for street trees.

Since they are not able to plant as many trees as originally planned in SE Division PBOT and Urban Forestry to create a separate planting project on adjacent side streets that will be implemented beginning in 2023. Over 200 street trees will be planted in the surrounding neighborhoods (in the public right-of-way). Planning work on this effort will begin in 2022.”

A presentation or meeting with EPLUTC would be beneficial. Perhaps once the planning work begins to locate the trees in surrounding neighborhoods.

Thank you for your help and time.

Best,

Héctor Rodríguez Ruiz (He/him/his)
East Portland Liaison Planner

Bureau of Planning Sustainability

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DRAFT – 06/09/2022

Elizabeth Tillstrom
Portland Bureau of Transportation
Address
Address

TREE PLANTINGS FOR THE DIVISION STREET TRANSIT & SAFETY PROJECT

The East Portland Land Use and Transportation Committee is asking for updated information about the status of the trees to be planted as part of the Division Safety Project in conjunction with Tri-Met's Division Transit Project.

As conveyed by Hector Rodriguez Ruiz in his email to this committee (attached), the original plan was to place the trees in the center median on Division Street.

However, as the project evolved, staff discovered that a major water transmission line, as well as the sewer infrastructure, were located on Division Street in close proximity to the proposed center median. Because of that conflict and the fact that most of the sidewalks along Division Street were seven (7) feet wide or less, it was determined that most of the trees could not be planted as originally designed. Instead, the number of trees that could be planted was estimated at twenty (20) and most of the other trees would be placed in the areas leading up to Division Street in consultation with the urban forester. We learned of this reduction in planting as construction was getting ready to begin in the summer of 2020.

As planned by PBOT and Urban Forestry, a separate planting project on adjacent side streets would be completed by 2022. This project promised to offset the lack of trees along Division Street with an abundant tree canopy in the adjoining neighborhood.

Since then, we had our June/July 2021, deadly heatwave. This was followed by a report put out from Portland State that documented that East Portland was much hotter than West Portland and our canopy loss was greater. One of the simplest ways to mitigate the heat is to plant more trees.

We are asking for a status update and more details on the tree plantings for the Division Street project, including a more exact timing of the alternate plan and how many trees are going where. It's disappointing that seemingly little progress has been made on this life saving project as we approach what promises to be another hot summer. Further, we feel that while the planting cannot happen on Division Street, there should be no reason to wait until the Transit and Safety projects are done before moving forward with the alternative site planting.

Thank you for your consideration and we await your response.

EAST PORTLAND LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Arlene M. Kimura
Interim Chair

att: Email

cc: J. Hardesty, Commissioner
J. Cairo, Urban Forestry
H. Rodriguez Ruiz, BPS

C. Rubio, Commissioner
C. Warner, PBOT
East Portland Land Use & Transportation Com