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City of Eugene Transportation Planning 180 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Eugene, OR 97401

## Re: East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue project

Dear City of Eugene Transportation staff,

The <u>Cycle of Change (CoC)</u> is a group of citizen activists working in different groups supported by BEST.

The CoC Biking workgroup has reviewed and supports the City of Eugene's plan for a <u>protected bikeway on East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue</u>. We also applaud the use of Quick Build funds to complete the project while respecting the concerns that neighbors voiced about bollards.

We are concerned, however, about the difficulty people walking and biking face in crossing East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, or making left turns onto the bikeway. We urge the City to complete East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue not just as a single bikeway, but as a key piece of the bicycle network that supports safe and effective bicycle transportation. To complete the network, Eugene needs safe crossings of East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue especially at:

- Amazon Path
- Alder Street
- University Street
- Emerald Street



Building a successful community by bringing people together to promote transportation options, safe streets, and walkable neighborhoods.

Cycle of Change focuses on encouraging and enhancing active transportation. One of our major goals is to fill gaps in Eugene's bikeway system that create obstacles to traveling by bike. East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue is one such gap. Several of the streets that cross East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue are designated Neighborhood Greenways, including Alder Street, University Street, and Emerald Street, and the Amazon Path is a heavily used multi-use path. Past investments make these streets comfortable along most of their lengths, but the crossing of East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue remains a barrier.

According to the (draft) Complete Street Design Standards:

Neighborhood Greenways perform the same functions as Neighborhood Residential Streets, but are also designed to provide a prioritized route for people biking. Neighborhood Greenways have design elements that encourage low traffic volumes and speeds. Bike and pedestrian crossings are improved at collector and arterial streets to provide for safe and comfortable crossings.

East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue is one of the busy streets that needs improved crossings, and the upcoming project offers an opportunity to create not just an isolated bikeway, but an entire network for the University and south Eugene.

Cycle of Change looks forward to bikeway improvements on East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue and thinks this is also a prime opportunity to create safer crossings. Low-cost, effective enhancements can be incorporated into the East 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue project design to make efficient use of city resources when budgets are tight. We request that city staff work with BEST to create safe crossings on a short timeline and limited budget.

Thank you for your attention, and your work to promote active transportation.

Sincerely,

Josh Goldfarb and Sue Wolling Co-Chairs, CoC Biking workgroup

P.S. See also the analysis from BEST: BEST supports improving biking on East 24th Avenue