



Board of Directors
Chair: Lori Manthey-Waldo
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TO: THPRD Board of Directors

FROM: A City By Choice Board of Directors

DATE: September 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Comment on Rock Creek/North Bethany Trails Master Plan

A City By Choice is a grass roots non-profit organization made up of neighbors and local business leaders that live and work North of Highway 26 from Cedar Mill to Rock Creek who believe, we, the people, who live, work and play here, should be the voice to determine how we change. We are grateful for THPRD's active interest, determination and efforts to help us build a stronger community by connecting our neighborhoods with off-street trails. We applaud the visionary planning that will safely connect our neighborhoods via mid-block crossings for Segment 2 of the Rock Creek Trail and feel the recommendation to preserve open space for future park uses is logical and prudent.

Segment 5 of the Rock Creek Trail and Segment 2 of the North Bethany Trail will connect the current, well-used path to new neighborhoods. This will be a welcome addition for all neighbors wishing to enjoy the outdoors via biking or walking. We support these new additions, but ask the board not to approve the Master Plan without addressing the following caveats:

1. To allow more space between the current homes and the proposed trail, we ask that segment 5 of the Rock Creek Trail be adjusted from 10 feet to 8 feet in width and please provide a more complete explanation to the public for the movement of the existing trail location.
 - a. The September 1, 2010 staff report did not clearly state why the current trail (which is currently maintained at close to 8 feet wide, near the stream and away from the homes) needs to move from its current position.
 - b. The existing trail is quite lovely to traverse and already cuts through the CWS vegetation area. It seems plausible to pave this and keep it at its current location. Is the need to move the trail driven by ADA or due to environmental impact as a result of paving materials?
2. Mid-block crossings are absolutely necessary for the safety of all pedestrians on Kaiser and Springville.
 - a. Please ensure a mid-block crossing is planned to cross Kaiser Road for the segment 5 of the Rock Creek Trail before this master plan is approved. Kaiser Road is now wider and traffic flows even faster after the new traffic light has been installed at the Kaiser/Bethany intersection. Cars pass at rates exceeding 35 -40 mph which creates a substantial crossing hazard to all pedestrians trying to go from one segment of the trail to the next.
 - b. Include a requirement that THPRD will work with Washington County to provide a mid-block crossing for segment 2 of the North Bethany Trail when Springville is widened. Springville Road speed limit is 45 mph – a true hazard to anyone crossing.

Thank you for your continued great service. We appreciate this opportunity to provide input and comment to the approval of the Rock Creek/North Bethany Trails Master Plan.