

MEMORANDUM – Fremont Main Street Study

Beaumont Wilshire Neighborhood Association

May 6, 2005

To: Debbie Bishoff/City of Portland-Bureau of Planning NE District Liaison

From: Beaumont Wilshire Neighborhood Association – Transportation and Land Use Committee

Subject: Request for improvements within the Fremont Main Street Study Corridor

Hello Debbie,

Here is a list of our issues and ideas that we would like to have addressed during the Fremont Main Street Study process.

Issues:

These issues are not in priority; rather they are listed from the west side of the study area (41st) to the east side of the study area (52nd).

1. Look at the potential of adding a left turn signal on Fremont for traffic that is traveling north on 41st and desires to turn left (west) onto Fremont. This left turn is currently not allowed.
2. Look at the timing of the left turn signal for the traffic traveling south on 42nd and turning left (east) onto Fremont. Currently the light for the left turn signal turns green at the same time as the pedestrian crossing signal turns to walk. This reduces the number of vehicles that can turn left during a green light cycle and is dangerous for pedestrians crossing the street. We believe that this also leads to cut-through traffic on NE Beech.
3. Please look at the feasibility of moving the northbound bus stop on NE 42nd that is in front of Beaumont Florist. Often times when it stops to pick up riders it causes traffic to back up into the intersection of NE 42nd and Fremont. If it were moved another half block to the north, it would alleviate this problem. It would also free up a couple of parking spaces for local businesses.
4. It is difficult to pull out of 42nd (south of Fremont) and onto Fremont. This is the case with all the numbered streets along the south side of Fremont. The cars park very close to the corner and it is difficult to see around the taller ones (SUVs). When pulling out onto Fremont, cars have to inch out into Fremont to see around these parked cars. Please look at this area to see if there is a remedy for this situation.

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5. There is a need for more crossing locations (crosswalks or preferably curb extensions with crosswalks) across Fremont St. Currently the only crosswalk in the study area is at 42nd. We would like to have three new crossing locations between 42nd and 52nd. The three top desired crossing locations are:
 - a. At NE 47th (north side of Fremont), on the east side of 47th. This is located in front of Amalifis restaurant. There is already a portion of the north side of Fremont that is yellow striped, so minimal on street parking would be affected.
 - b. At NE 50th (north side of Fremont), on the west side of 50th. This is located in front of the proposed Beaumont Village Lofts development. The developer has proposed to integrate a curb extension on the north side of Fremont with his development plans.
 - c. At NE 43rd (south side of Fremont), on the east side of 43rd. This would be across from the proposed new development on the corner of 44th and Fremont. Perhaps a good neighbor agreement could be struck with the developer to integrate a curb extension with his development.

Alternative locations for crossing locations are:

- d. At NE 45th (north side of Fremont), on the east side of 45th. There are bus stops on both sides of Fremont, so if curb extensions were integrated into the crossings they wouldn't cause the removal of any parking.
 - e. At NE 46th (north side of Fremont), on the west side of 46th. There is already a curb cut on the south side of Fremont and it is adjacent to the Fremont Commons building which gets quite a lot of foot traffic.
 - f. At NE 47th (south side of Fremont), on the east side of 47th. There are bus stops on both sides of Fremont, so if curb extensions were integrated into the crossings they wouldn't cause the removal of any parking.
6. Many of the neighbors that live within 1 – 2 blocks of the Beaumont Business district have problems with drivers parking in front of their home and at times blocking their driveways. Even if the driveways are not blocked, it can be difficult to pull out of their driveways if someone is parked across the street from their driveway (the streets are narrow and it can be difficult to pull out with so many cars around). We would like it if alternatives for parking were analyzed.
 7. The yellow striping on the east side of 47th (south of Fremont) is nearly worn off. It needs to be re-striped.
 8. Would like it if the east side of 49th (south of Fremont) were striped so it is easier for people to turn from Fremont onto 49th.

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9. Please address the feasibility of having some type of traffic control at 47th and Fremont. 47th is heavily used and it is dangerous to pull out from 47th onto Fremont.
10. We are interested in lowering the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.

IDEAS:

1. Create a fully integrated plan for Fremont that extends up to 57th. The street feels wide between 57th and 52nd because no one parks on the north side of the Fremont. This leads to cars being driven faster and they continue to drive fast when entering the business district. Maybe Fremont could be narrowed at this location by adding some stormwater planter curb extensions. This would help to reduce the volume of stormwater directed to the new CSO tunnel system.
2. Add some public art into the business district, similar to what was created along Alberta. Perhaps there could be some type of art added at the west and east entrances to the district. This would let drivers know that they are entering a business district and may encourage them to slow down.
3. Put angled parking on the west side of 43rd and 44th (north of Fremont) for a distance of about 100 feet. The street is wide at these locations and it would provide for additional parking. Perhaps this could be done when the new development is constructed at 44th and Fremont.
4. There is a lot of parking for the Columbia Plaza building (south side of Fremont between 43rd and 44th). Perhaps there could be shared parking at this location.
5. Another potential shared parking location is at the dentist/chiropractor building on the SE corner of 44th and Fremont. There are 4 parking spaces that face 44th and have good visibility.
6. Shared parking with Beaumont School
7. Would the City supply the neighborhood with stencils and paint so that we could have a neighborhood work day and paint yellow strips next to driveways at homes that have problems with drivers parking in or right next to their driveways? The stencil would be for a NO PARKING message that could be stenciled into the driveway.
8. There is a potential for shared parking behind the building where Round Table Pizza is located (north side of Fremont at 49th).