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Dr. Karen Fischer Gray,
Superintendent

*Parkrose School District is an equal
opportunity educator and employer.*

Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130
Portland, Oregon 97204

November 10, 2015

Dear Portland City Council,

The Parkrose School District Board of Education and Superintendent would like to register our deep concern regarding increasing the freight traffic on Sandy Boulevard as part of the Comprehensive Plan. The change from “major” to “priority” is not a right fit for Parkrose. Airport Way is a major thoroughfare for trucking and should remain so. Increasing freight traffic to Sandy Boulevard upsets the work that Historic Parkrose and the Parkrose School District are doing to create Sandy as a destination location and a Main Street location.

Please consider the following:

1. Sandy Boulevard is already at capacity. The traffic stops dead there each day during commute times because people use it to get to the freeways to get to work and then to go home again. It's a parking lot at 5pm.
2. The commercial areas between 102nd and 122nd are being called a Neighborhood Center in the Comp Plan and we agree with that designation. We want quaint, culturally based shops, destination restaurants, bike/pedestrian paths and family friendly shops and businesses for our citizens to enjoy. Increasing trucks, noxious fumes and noise will countermand that entire concept and stop us from becoming a Neighborhood Center in East Portland.
3. Historic Parkrose was funded by the City to grow and develop Parkrose as a neighborhood-gathering place and east side hub of the city. This designation is in conflict with that charge.
4. In 2010, Parkrose residents passed a \$64 million dollar Capital Construction Bond based on our need as a district to provide our students a safe and warm place to go to school and grow. Safety was the number one issue regarding our bond. Our citizens passed that bond and we have built a good many solid structures including a state of the art LEED Gold middle school. How do you think our Parkrose citizens feel about sending their children home by foot along Sandy Boulevard with endless trucks passing them, especially given the poor condition of our sidewalks and pedestrian thoroughways? Can you picture kids walking around a semi?

While we agree that the City of Portland needs to develop employment opportunities for the Parkrose area, this is not one of them. We want to ensure that Parkrose is a place where residents enjoy a healthy, safe, thriving Neighborhood Center. East Portland needs industrial and freight development and it belongs on Airport Way along the Columbia Corridor. We urge you to consider our request.

Respectfully,

The Board of Education of the Parkrose School District
Dr. Karen Fischer Gray, Superintendent



*Every child reads, thinks critically, and graduates ready for
college and career.*