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To Mayor from Bean

Ormond R. Bean

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December 17, 1935

Mr. Mayor:

The report of the City Engineer shows 45.34% protest against this project on the basis of assessed value. On this basis it would still be a legal petition and Council could proceed with the project, but the analysis of the report shows that there were protests received from at least 46% of the property owners, representing 53.39% of the area of the district and I, for one, do not feel entirely satisfied to put this project over in its present form.

Right here I wish to say that I want to correct a wrong impression that has gained credence concerning the plan itself. This plan is not the plan of the City Engineer, Mr. Apperson. It is not a final plan. Mr. Apperson was requested by the Council to prepare these studies and they were instigated originally at the request of the Metropolitan Association and were approved as filed by a committee representing the organization. The plan was also approved by the State Highway Commission as filed. Neither is it my plan any more than it is the plan of the City Engineer. I am not so presumptuous as to think that all ability to solve problems is concentrated on the Department of Public Works. If this plan and this assessment district and the cost of improvement meets with a negative reception from those affected, I do not want to put it over.

However, I do feel that this is no time to scrap the project. I feel that if we refer the subject to the City Engineer again for further study and permit many who have objected to outline modifications of the plan as presented, that we will perhaps come out of this yet with a plan which will be satisfactory to a large majority. Such a study may take the shape of divorcing

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the Foothills project entirely from the Front Street plan. Furthermore, Front Street itself may be modified and certain changes made in the assessment district to conform. I am open minded on the whole program, and, moreover, I am intensely eager to accomplish something for Portland while we have such a favorable opportunity.

Therefore, Mr. Mayor, I move you that these proceedings be discontinued and given no further consideration, and that the City Engineer be directed to make and present to the Council further studies conforming as nearly as possible to the ideas of interested and organized groups of property owners.

Ormond R. Bean

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