

11-29-1938

## To Upson from State Highway Engineer

R. H. Baldock

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*Kruse - Fall*  
 R. H. BALDOCK  
 STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER  
 SALEM

## OREGON STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

SALEM

November 29, 1938

Mr. U. L. Upson, Executive Secretary  
 The Metropolitan Association, Inc.  
 Woodlark Building  
 Portland, Oregon

NO. 194454		SUBJECT: <i>Front Ave</i>	
NOV 30 1938		DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	
FOR YOUR ACTION	<i>R. H. Baldock</i>	<i>RGR</i>	
ACK.			
RECD.			
REPLY.			
DATE TO FILE BY	<i>DEC 13 1938</i>	<i>11/30</i>	<i>11/30</i>
	<i>12/8-38</i>		

Dear Sir:

I can readily understand your confusion as evidenced in your 194257 letters of November 14 and 15, relative to the cost of the right of way on the Front Avenue project.

When we sent you the estimate on the cost of the Foothills Boulevard, we included the cost of the right of way, which was an appraisal made, as I understand, by the City of Portland. The City of Portland also made an appraisal for the Front Avenue improvement, as I recall, from Barbur Boulevard to Hoyt Street.

The section beyond Hoyt Street, involving the survey of the viaduct to the proposed Fremont bridge and Yeon Avenue, has never been discussed with the city officials of Portland, and the information should not have been sent to you until this matter had been discussed with them for the reason that no action involving construction in Portland can be undertaken without the full approval and concurrence of Mr. Bean, the Commissioner of Public Works, and the engineering department, the Mayor and the Council.

The Highway Commission has always refused to pay the entire cost of the right of way in cities when such costs were a material per cent of the total cost of the construction. At one time the Commission indicated that it would consider paying right-of-way costs up to fifteen or twenty per cent of the cost of construction. Based on this premise, the proportion of cost of the right of way chargeable to the State Highway Commission was shown at twenty per cent of the cost of construction. The statement did not include any estimate of the appraised value of the entire right of way for this improvement.

The next time I am in Portland, I will discuss the matter with you further.

Very truly yours,

*R. H. Baldock*  
 State Highway Engineer

*Copy to Staff A*  
 RHB:HI  
 cc Mr. Ormond R. Bean  
 Mr. L. W. Bome

194454