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Ash Street ramp project

Terry Schrunk

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OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

TERRY D. SCHULINK
MAYOR

CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

August 11, 1961

Portland City Planning Commission
City Hall
Portland, Oregon

Attention: Mr. Harry Sroufe, President
Mr. Lloyd Keefe, Executive Director

Gentlemen:

Under date of July 25, 1961, a report was forwarded to the members of the City Council, through Commissioner William A. Bowes, dealing with the subject of the proposed Ash Street ramp project. In this report, it was recommended that neither the Ash Street overpass nor the alternate underpass should be built at this time, and it was suggested that the Planning Commission should be given further time to study the need for access to downtown Portland at this point.

At a meeting on this subject in my office on August 3, 1961, with members of the City Council present, the President of the Portland City Planning Commission stated that he felt positive that the Planning Commission could come up with an alternate suggestion within a period of six months. After considerable discussion in the informal session, Commissioner Bowes brought to the formal session of the City Council a letter, a copy of which has been provided you, recommending that the entire matter be canceled at this time by the Highway Commission, and that at a future date, if plans could be forthcoming from the Planning Commission to meet the problem in this area, new application be made. Commissioner Bowes' recommendation was adopted unanimously by the City Council on Thursday, August 3, 1961.

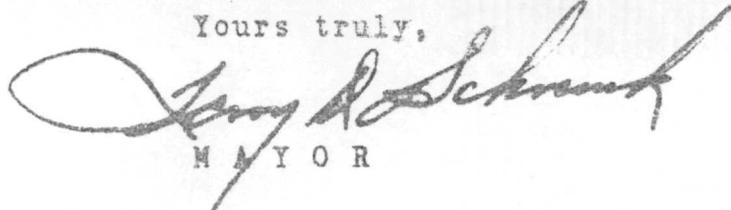
I respectfully request that the Portland City Planning Commission immediately institute studies of this matter, taking into consideration the need for the protection of vehicular and pedestrian traffic; the need for vehicular access to downtown Portland from Harbor Drive; the need for pedestrian access with safety to the Harbor Wall area adjacent to SW Harbor Drive; and, at the same time, consider the protection of the view area that came under so much controversy in the recent discussions of the proposed Ash Street ramp project.

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I further respectfully request that in studying this problem, you look at the needs of the entire area north of Market Street to the Steel Bridge from the river front to at least Fourth Avenue on the West, with the thought in mind that eventually either part of or the entire area might be involved in a rehabilitation or urban renewal project.

I trust that in approaching this problem, the Planning Commission will not attempt to resolve the matter by recommending postponement for five or ten years, with the hope that the matter would work out, unless your Commission finds, and can substantiate the findings, that there is not a problem in the area. Adequate time should be taken to review thoroughly the matter, and to consult with the various individuals and associations in this community that have proposals. I hope that the Planning Commission will call upon the architects and engineers associations for their assistance in this matter as a civic contribution. I am confident that the vast majority of both these groups feels that it is not enough merely to be opposed to something, without having a better alternative to suggest. I am certain that these groups, made up of responsible citizens of the area, would be willing to cooperate with your Commission.

Yours truly,



MAYOR

TDS:l

cc: All Commissioners
Mr. C. W. Williams
Portland Art Commission
Mr. Fred Fowler
Oregon Chapter, A.I.A.
Professional Engineers of Oregon
Portland Beautification Association
Press