

From: [Sara Schmit](#)
To: [Transportation and Mobility Commission Agenda Calendar](#)
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Hi Rebecca,

Here is the statement I read for the commission last night concerning the Fort Vancouver Way corridor. I appreciate being allowed to address you all and look forward to attending more meetings. Thanks for all the work you do.

Hello, my name is Sara Schmit and between July 2020 and February of 2022 I bicycle commuted to the VA Campus from the Heights neighborhood five days a week and am very familiar with this area and it's accessibility. I want to first applaud the city for recognizing the need to improve this area for all road users. I also want to emphasize some key points to this committee on the importance of the VA campus to our community. On this sprawling campus there are **many** essential services, including two outpatient substance use disorder clinics, an inpatient clinic, one medically supported detox clinic, as well as the city's only sobering services. There are also hundreds of individuals in the Portland/Vancouver area that come to the VA campus for random urinalysis testing on any given day as part of their substance use treatment programs. A large majority of these individuals have suspended licenses or are low income and do not utilize a personal motor vehicle for their transportation needs.

Efforts made to improve this corridor should focus on the intersection of Fort Vancouver Way and St. Johns and creating a bike lane from Fourth Plain and Grand to Fourth Plain and St. Johns. Safe and efficient **Connectivity** is key, and improving the area of Fort Vancouver Way from Fourth Plain to Mill Plain is akin to creating a water park in the desert. The only thing that is difficult in this particular area is riding up the hill on Fort Vancouver Way from Fourth plain and getting stuck behind the bus. **The real challenge is getting this close to begin with.** If you are traveling West you are most likely utilizing the 18th st or the Mcloughlin corridors to access Grand. If you are using 18th st and turn right on Grand and attempt to avoid Fourth Plain, you will run into issues that my 3 minute time limit does not allow me to specify but I would be more than happy to with anyone who is interested

Most accidents have occurred at the intersection of Fort Vancouver Way and Fourth Plain because of **inadequate infrastructure on Fourth Plain**. If active transportation users were not forced to share the sidewalk with pedestrians and mobility scooters, or the main road with motorists this area would be safer and more accessible for **everyone**. I see cyclists take this way all the time and I hold my breath and say a little prayer. The easy out would be to blame them and say they should know the alternate route, which in this case is actually complicated and comes with its own risks. The natural inclination given the existing corridors is to ride down Grand and go left on Fourth Plain where there is no bike lane. I encourage you to focus your efforts on **safely connecting existing active transportation corridors** before potentially wasting resources on an area that already has adequate infrastructure in place.

Thanks,

Sara Schmit