

Traffic Light at 15th & Washington St, Oregon City, OR 97045

To TAC,

June 9, 2018

My name is Cindy Reining, my husband Tony and I have lived at 1403 Taylor Street in Oregon City for the last 20 years. I drive through the intersection at 15th and Washington St. every day for work. My commute is not unique, I work in Portland and commute during the high traffic times and believe that my frustration with this intersection is not uncommon. I've watched the traffic grow and change over the years and I've seen some really bad driving habits come from the lack of actual "flow" at the intersection. Currently there is an abundance of work on 15th St. and I fear that the city may decide to try to squeeze in a left turn lane for the traffic turning from 15th St. onto Washington St. I don't believe there is enough room for a safe and proper turn lane in either direction. I was born and raised here in Oregon City and it has changed so much. I feel the growth we are experiencing will continue to challenge our older infrastructure. I believe that we should try to create simple, cost effective solutions that will work in areas when there isn't room for expansion without demolition. I'm writing you with another idea I hope you will take into consideration.

My proposal is that you consider changing the signals to adjust the traffic flow on 15th St. I believe the solution to this issue is changing the timing of the lights to allow both East and West bound traffic to have separate lights. This would allow the traffic to flow freely through the intersection while continuing to have only one lane of traffic flowing for each direction on 15th St. I believe this idea could work as long as the traffic on Washington St. is moving along well enough to accept the influx of traffic from 15th. I realize that timing a light this way would be different and the traffic on Washington would have to wait a bit longer for their light to change, but I truly believe the traffic would move through the intersection much more safely and efficiently during stressful high traffic times.

High Traffic Times are limited but because of the volume of traffic coming down 15th St. from the hospital tends to flow through the intersection to 99E and onto I205. I believe changing the traffic flow during high traffic times will have the greatest impact for those who commute through the intersection daily.

Low Traffic Times are more common and also important to consider. During lower traffic times the lights could change based on the traffic flow using the traffic sensors. There could be a flashing RED yield sign and a sign stating that oncoming traffic has the right away when lights flash YELLOW. Since there are two lights they can both flash and there appears to be plenty of room across the top of the light pole for visible safety signs.

Reasons I believe this change will be helpful to the community.

I believe adjusting signals would be a less expensive option to any other traffic flow change and would be fiscally responsible.

During high traffic times I often have to wait through two or three signal changes to get through the intersection heading East on 15th St. Frequently only a couple cars will get through a light because they are trying to turn make a left turn onto North bound Washington St. This can take a bit of time because it seems that most of the West bound traffic on 15th St. is coming down the hill and headed to 99E and onto I205. There appears to be less traffic trying to make a left turn onto South bound Washington St. from 15th St. than those making a left turn onto North bound Washington St. from 15th St. As a consequence those trying to turn North at the light seem to wait longer to complete their turn than those wanting to turn South onto Washington St. This often creates the next issue below.

I often see cars in the East bound lane trying to squeeze between the legal traffic lane and Auto Shop NW on the SW corner of the intersection. This creates an illegal right hand lane. They are trying to get around the backup when someone is waiting to turn left onto North bound Washington St. from East bound 15th St. They are trying to accomplish one of two things, either they're trying to turn right onto Washington St. or cross Washington St. and continue up 15th St.

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There is very little room for this and it can back up the legal traffic lane even further. It concerns me because they can't really see what is going on and creates hesitation from other drivers as safety precaution. This slows the traffic flow even further.

Turning Right from an illegal right lane on East bound 15th onto Washington St. itself can create issues. I see cars that pull out onto South bound Washington St. from an illegal right hand lane, but often they are unable complete the turn due to the size of the vehicle and they often block traffic. You don't see this on West bound 15th St. for people turning onto North bound Washington St. because the traffic moves through the intersection more smoothly.

Trying to cross Washington St. from an illegal right lane to get around traffic is of concern too. Often I see two scenarios listed below.

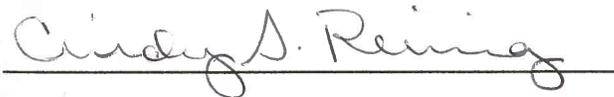
If a car is trying to cross Washington St. on East bound 15th St. and using an illegal right hand lane, and someone from West bound 15th St. is trying to turn left onto South bound Washington St. there could be an accident.

When cars trying to turn left onto North bound Washington St. from East bound 15th St. have the opportunity to turn, they clear the way for the car behind them to continue on 15th St. Having someone in an illegal right hand lane who may also be trying, or has already started, to cross Washington St. is concerning. Often the person in the illegal lane tries to hurry across the intersection, to beat the person in the legal lane across. I've seen and experienced this too, many times. I've had someone almost hit a car legally parked in front of the Abernathy Center on 15th St. because they were trying to beat me across the intersection and cut in front of me, before the cars behind me crossed the intersection and cut them off.

I also believe TRIMET would have a hard time making a right hand turn onto South bound Washington St. if a second lane or turn lane was added.

I appreciate you reviewing my proposal as this issue has concerned me for a long time. I know that the city is growing and along with growth there will challenges. Changes will have to be made and it is my hope is that my birth city, the city I've loved my entire life as well as having raised my own family here, will continue to be a safe and welcoming place for everyone in the community to call home.

Thank You,



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15th St

Washington St

15th St

Washington St

Coney Island Tavern

JAS Engineering

Auto Shop Northwest

Grano Bakery and Market

AAAdvanced Dental, Dr. Inna Shimanovsky, DMD

Oregon City Veterinary Clinic

Providence Willamette Falls Community

Abernethy Center