



Leana Kinley &lt;leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us&gt;

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## RE City Staff Proposal to Convert Kanaka Creek Underpass (East Cascade Avenue) to Bike/Pedestrian Access Only

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Bernard versari &lt;bversari@hotmail.com&gt;

Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 7:55 PM

To: "kristy.mccaskell@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <kristy.mccaskell@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, "michael.d.johnson@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <michael.d.johnson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, "paul.hendricks@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <paul.hendricks@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, "annie.mchale@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <annie.mchale@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, "dave.cox@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <dave.cox@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, "scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, "leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, "carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <carolyn@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, "ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us" <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>  
Cc: Pat Albaugh <pat@portofskamania.org>, "martin@martinsgorgetours.com" <martin@martinsgorgetours.com>, "david71750@hotmail.com" <david71750@hotmail.com>

The City Staff proposal to close the access to the Cascade Avenue Railroad Underpass to vehicles is raising grave safety and critical access/egress concerns among the community, including the residents, businesses, employees, regular users, and visitors of the waterfront.

The attached petition with 120 names to-date against the proposal expresses their opposition and deep concerns. Please review this petition carefully and please take into consideration the comments/concerns of the community to develop a viable solution.

Although the Staff proposal claims that the road should be closed for safety reasons, the reality is that closing it would actually cause critical safety issues for the downtown waterfront, particularly in emergency situations when every minute/second counts. In these situations any delay would prevent a timely response. Unpredictable emergencies have happened and will likely happen again. The safety of the Downtown Waterfront depends on keeping the railroad underpass open to vehicles and maintaining it properly.

Regarding the "geometrics deficiencies of the road related to safety" listed by staff in the meeting packet, the width of this 0.15 mile road is not 12', as stated by staff. It is about 20' wide throughout, except for a small section under the bridge that has not been maintained properly over the years and that has narrowed. Adding mirrors should address staff's visibility concerns.

Last Saturday evening a mile-long oil train stopped, blocking the Russell access road for 15 minutes while Clark and Lewie's was hosting a music event. As discussed in the petition a Russell street train blockage is not unusual. The longest blockage reported has been a day long closure.

Please also find attached several letters to you from the Port of Skamania County, residents and users of the waterfront.


The waterfront community urges the City staff, the Mayor and the City Council to keep this critical access/egress open to vehicles and to maintain/improve it.


Leana, could you please include this information in the June 8 workshop packet and the June 16 City Council packet.

Best regards,

Bernard Versari and Pat Albaugh

**2 attachments**

 **04271802.PDF**  
2588K

 **04271801.PDF**  
483K