

Whiteaker Community Council

Mayor Piercy, Councilor Ortiz, Council President Zelenka, University President Lariviere and ORI Board of Directors:

We at the Whiteaker Community Council are concerned about the potential developments upriver from us. The proposed development of the "ORI Building" at the western end of the Riverfront Research Park has several issues we feel need to be addressed.

As Whiteaker is along the Willamette downriver of the proposed development we are concerned about any potential pollution from the construction or the cars it will bring after construction.

Primarily, as citizens of Eugene we are concerned about the Greenway being used for private development. The Greenway concept has even more importance now than when it was first conceived. Not only does it prevent pollution from entering the Willamette River, the Greenway also promotes active transportation and entertainment while absorbing carbon dioxide. All of this reduces the strain of the Climate Crisis and increases health in the citizens of Eugene.

Further there are proposals to connect a bike route along Alder to the Ruth Bascom bike path. It is important to encourage safe bicycle transportation to reduce Green House Gases and promote healthy lifestyles.

Also, along the Willamette River is class 1 farmland. That is important for ourselves and those who come after.

For these reasons and others, we at the Whiteaker Community Council support a transparent and participatory planning process to update the 1989 Master Plan before development occurs north of the railroad tracks, and we oppose development of the Willamette Greenway.

The Whiteaker Community Council Board

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