

Levi Pennington

People

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Levi Pennington Writing to R.H. Baldock, March 28, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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March 28, 1947.

Mr. R. H. Baldock,
State Highway Engineer,
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Baldock:--

Let me thank you for your letter of yesterday, making clear the plans of the State Highway Commission for the change in College Street here in Newberg.

Some of the residents on that street are regretting deeply the prospect of the loss of the shade trees on that street, especially between Second and Fourth, where the street is to be widened. And to me it seems that the needs of the traffic could be handled otherwise than by a widening so great as to destroy these trees.

So far as I can see, the only traffic that needs to be seriously considered is that which comes from Hillsboro way and down the valley from the Forest Grove section and on to the bridge that crosses into Marion County. Traffic from Portland to go toward that bridge could hardly be expected to come west from River street to Center, on to Edwards, and on to College, and then turn south, to the left and right across the north-east bound traffic on U.S. 99 right at the busiest corner in the city, when it could as well turn south on River St. and save six blocks of travel, west three to College, then south to Fourth, then east three to River. And traffic from the south-west on U.S. 99^w could come down Third street, if that were paved out to the highway, and cut off a good deal of traffic that now must turn south at that same busiest corner.

If these two streams of traffic were diverted, or rather one, for the Portland-St. Paul traffic now turns at River, and could simply remain as it is, then College street would have to handle only the traffic from out of town coming in from Washington County.

And it appears to me that a less amount of widening than would take out these trees would accommodate the traffic. That street between Second and Fourth is approximately 23 feet wide between curbs, which is the same width as North College street, where the curbs are in -- beyond the curbing on College street the paving is only 15 feet wide.

Would not a widening of four feet on each side, making the pavement more than 30 feet wide, be adequate?

Please do not think I am trying to tell you your business. But if you could see a way to spare these trees, it would be a very popular thing in this town.

Sincerely yours,

Levi T. Pennington.