

Levi Pennington

People

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## Levi Pennington Writing to the Newberg City Council, May 12, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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May 12, 1947.

To the Newberg City Council:--

Gentlemen:--

When I wrote you some days ago about the proposal to put the Hillsboro-Woodburn highway through the city along College street, I suggested that it be routed instead down Edwards street, which seems to me has many advantages over the College street route, as I tried to point out in my previous letter.

At that time I was under the impression that Vermilian street, on which the route as at present turns east after crossing the tracks, did not run through to Meridian street, but it does. I wonder if you have considered Meridian street for the Hillsboro-Woodburn highway. It seems to me that it has all the advantages over the College street routing that Edwards street has, and a good many others. In the first place, it is already paved from Vermilian street to Fourth, to a width of 35 feet or more, a width that will allow parking on both sides of the street and still leave a two lane highway its full length, without the destruction of shade trees, the spoiling of parkways, and the other disadvantages of the College street route.

Another thing that it seems to me ought to be taken into consideration is the fact that this route would do away with the necessity of so much crossing of this Hillsboro-Woodburn highway, by all sorts of people, but especially by students of the various schools. Meridian street is two blocks east of College street. If the route were down Meridian street, it would save all the folks between College and Meridian and between Fourth and Vermilian from the necessity of crossing this highway on their way to school, to the postoffice, to the banks, to the groceries, and to practically all the business, religious, social and amusement centers of the city.

I am told that eventually, and perhaps soon, the State Highway intends to improve the situation as this highway enters Newberg from the north, by eliminating the sharp turns to Vermilian street and then south. Well, at present the highway crosses four railroad tracks; if the College street route is selected, it will cross three; even after the sharp turns have been eliminated; if the Meridian street route is chosen, it will cross one. And Meridian street runs much farther north than either College or Edwards, and it seems to me that it would not be more difficult to secure right of way and make the highway go out Meridian street than either of the other route; and the advantages seem to me to be so great that it would be far better to incur that expense than to send this highway right through the center of town. There are rumors that the State Highway Commission are again considering the change of U.S. 99W to a location north of the railroad tracks, to get this heavy traffic off of First street and away from the center of the business district. What reason, then, for sending this highway through the heart of the city?

Sincerely yours,