

TESTIMONY

I. Intro

Good morning gentlemen. My name is Roger Henderson and I reside at 17565 SW Cooper Mountain Lane, and have done so for the last 23 years.

I am testifying on behalf of approximately 150 residents along 175th Avenue, the Save175th Neighborhood Association.

II. Issue

Since the original conception of 175th as a country arterial the character of the road has changed. 175th has morphed into a residential street serving the many homes in the area. There are 21 residential driveways that directly access 175th as well as residential streets such as Alvord, High Hill, Outlook, Siler Ridge, and several others.

175th is currently overburdened handling about 8,000 cars per day. At peak hours northbound traffic backs up $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile at the Kemmer four-way stop. Such backups block driveways, and also Fire Station 69's access to 175th. There is no through outlet for the traffic funneled north on 175th, said traffic only dumps vehicles into residential neighborhoods.

In the winter, 175th can become impassable in snow and ice due to the steep grades, primarily on the north slope. I can attest that it is very exciting to find oneself driving backward down the hill and ending up in a pile of vehicles.

The building of the new High School will further burden the avenue with many new, inexperienced drivers. There is also a new development slated for the top of the hill to be called Kemmer Ridge, further increasing congestion.

III. Vision

For your consideration, we feel a better, more foresighted solution would be an "around the mountain" route to the west. The area to the west is yet to be intensely developed. It should mean less displacement of current residences. A road to the west offers the opportunity to connect to a through arterial, such as Cornelius Pass Road, and thence all the way to Highway 26.

IV. Alternate Vision (No Way to Avoid 175th)

Suggested Improvements to 175th:

- Traffic light, including left turns, at Kemmer and 175th.
- Traffic light (on demand) at entrance to Winkleman Park.
- "Blind Hill" signage at the several humps on the top of the road.

- Keep the “kink” as a natural traffic calmer, improving the apex turn radius as possible. This will save residences and reduce cost.
- Petition ODOT to reduce the speed limit to 35 mph. Speeds of 52 to 57 mph, which is the current documented average for 85% of the traffic on 175th, are just not safe for this area. Visualize yourself trying to cross the street to get your mail with cars coming both directions at 50 mph plus. Ever served on a jury with pictures of someone’s brains all over the side of a car? I have, and I’d hate to see that happen to one of my neighbors.

Thank you for your time and attention.