

January 6, 2010

Jean Fraser
Portland Planning Department
Portland City Hall
389 Congress Street
Portland, Me 04101

Re: Oak Street discontinuance application

Dear Jean,

Thank you for the notice relating to the application filed to discontinue Oak Street between Spring and Pleasant Streets. We own and manage the 90,000 square foot building at 562 Congress Street, which occupies the west side of Oak Street between Congress and Free Streets.

Oak Street is a very important pedestrian connection between Spring and Pleasant Street—without it, the south side of Spring Street would be perhaps the longest barrier without pedestrian access in the City. We are adamantly opposed to removing this important public pedestrian corridor between upper Free Street and the Pleasant Street neighborhood.

The City has recently convened a group to study alterations to the Franklin Arterial to minimize the obstacle it presents. It is not at all inconceivable that at some point in the future, the City will want to study alteration of Spring Street to minimize the ill-conceived barrier which it forms. If Spring Street is re-designed in the future, the City should have the ability to re-open Oak Street as a cross street. A discontinuance now would eliminate that alternative for the future residents of Portland.

Oak Street is an important view corridor to the harbor from the spine of the City. The City's existing policy of preserving existing view corridors and encouraging creation of new ones should not be frustrated in this instance by the contemplated discontinuance.

For the benefit of present and future residents of Portland,

1. please preserve the existing pedestrian route between Free and Congress Streets and the Pleasant Street neighborhood,
2. please preserve the ability of future residents to reconnect Spring Street to lower Oak Street, and
3. please preserve the existing view corridor.

Sincerely,



Peter W. Quesada