



M O H R & S E R E D I N

Landscape Architects, Inc.

Ms. Jean Fraser, Planner  
Planning Division, City of Portland  
389 Congress Street  
Portland Maine 04101

**Re: Oak Street Discontinuance proposed by Lafayette Portland, LLC**

Dear Jean,

Thank you for taking the time to review the proposal by Lafayette Portland LLC to discontinue Oak Street between Spring Street and Pleasant Street. It is our understanding that the applicant wants to eliminate the public way with no proposed public walkway or parking. As currently Proposed by the LLC there is no public easement that will connect Pleasant Street to Spring Street in the area between the parking garage and the Holiday Inn.

As you know, Mohr & Seredin has been located on Pleasant Street for the past 20 years and we are very familiar with pedestrian routes as well as parking patterns on Pleasant Street. The portion of Oak Street that is proposed to be discontinued carries a significant amount of walking traffic between our neighborhood and downtown. South Street has no pedestrian access, up to Spring Street and therefore the potential loss of Oak Street means that the neighborhood would have to gain access to downtown via Center Street or High Street. We believe this will result in a significant disruption of an established walking pattern and is similar in many ways to the disruption of established circulation caused by Franklin Arterial which the city is now planning to correct.

In addition to the disruption of the existing pedestrian walkway there will be a loss of unmetered on-street parking on Oak Street. Our office staff utilizes on-street parking on Oak Street and we know from our experience from the neighborhood that other businesses and residents use this portion of Oak Street because it is unmetered. While the loss of 5 or 6 public parking spaces may seem insignificant to the applicant, it will have a dramatic impact on the neighborhood and our business because there are very few unmetered parking spaces within a quarter mile of the section of Oak Street that is proposed to be discontinued.

We trust that the Planning Board will review the proposal and at a minimum require Lafayette Portland, LLC to maintain a pedestrian connection and ideally provide a similar amount of parking that will be lost if Oak Street is formally discontinued.

Sincerely,

Stephen Mohr, ASLA  
Tatyanna Seredin, ASLA

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