



## City of Tigard

February 18, 2015

Department of Land Conservation & Development  
Constance Beaumont  
635 Capitol St NE, Suite 150  
Salem, Oregon 97301-2564

Re: Education and Outreach Opportunity for the City of Tigard.

Dear Ms. Beaumont:

In order to become a more vibrant and livable community, the City of Tigard has set a goal through our Strategic Plan to become the Pacific Northwest's most walkable community. On behalf of the community of Tigard, this letter shall formally express our determination to work with the TGM program to host a combined workshop/presentation with Mr. Jeff Speck, internationally renowned urban designer and city planner. After review of the following information, please inform us of additional steps we need to take to actualize our goal of bringing Mr. Speck to Tigard.

The City of Tigard was a rural community for much of its history and the vast majority of its population growth has occurred since 1970. Consequently, many of the city's developed areas are characterized by the disconnected street networks popular for subdivisions built in the 1970s and 1980s. The city lacks a pedestrian-friendly transportation network. The result is out-of-direction travel that discourages bicycle and pedestrian travel.

The type, intensity, and location of different land uses are major determinants of travel patterns. Land use patterns in Tigard are suburban in character, with residential areas separated from commercial areas and a relatively low density of development overall. This development pattern results in an auto-centric community.

Through community outreach we have learned our citizens agree pedestrian-friendly design and walkable neighborhoods enhance livability. Unfortunately, there are significant gaps in the sidewalk system with few connections linking schools, retail, parks, and transit.

Connectivity in Tigard is severely challenged by Highway 217, Highway 99W, I-5 and the WES commuter/freight rail line as well as Fanno Creek, Bull Mountain, and other natural features. These challenges are exacerbated by a built environment that precludes efficient connections through the prevalent use of cul-de-sacs and other dead-end streets. This is most apparent in the residential areas of Tigard, where block lengths are longer and many streets end in cul-de-sacs, resulting in out-of-direction travel for even short trips. Such

limited service roadways are attractive for neighborhoods because they limit traffic volumes and travel speeds. However, they contribute to inefficiency in the circulation system and over reliance on major arterials. In summary, Tigard's location at the crossroads of several major transportation routes has proven to be an advantage for the local economy but not for connectivity and pedestrian friendly design.

The city has addressed these problems from many angles through policies and goals set forth in our Comprehensive Plan<sup>1</sup>, Transportation System Plan<sup>2</sup>, and Strategic Plan<sup>3</sup>. The city seeks to improve opportunities for walking, bicycling and using transit by creating and formalizing short, unofficial neighborhood trails, establishing a citywide sidewalk GIS database, adopting zoning codes for a diverse and compact urban form, and engaging the community to identify opportunities to implement related goals.

The city has made significant progress toward promoting livability and encouraging pedestrian-friendly design. However, to become the Pacific Northwest's most walkable community we need to go even further, dig deeper and become more dynamic and creative. This is where Jeff Speck comes into the picture. Mr. Speck has promoted walkability and pedestrian-friendly design through books, lectures, and built work. Because of his progressive ideas and creative problem solving, Mr. Speck is known throughout the international urban design community. Through an interactive workshop and community presentation by Mr. Speck, community leaders in Tigard would learn new ways of addressing complex problems concerning walkability.

Our goal for bringing Mr. Speck to Tigard has three components: 1) a creative problem solving workshop; 2) a public presentation; 3) a follow up memorandum of Mr. Speck's observations and suggestions. The combination of these components will help our city staff and local leaders explore creative and proven solutions to address our community's walkability challenges. A workshop will provide local leaders with the knowledge and skill set Mr. Speck has obtained throughout his career to advance policies, planning efforts, and design practices to create vibrant, livable, and healthy communities. We envision a public presentation by Mr. Speck to be educational as well as motivating. Indeed a boost of thoughtful energy to help our community implement established policies and goals. Lastly, Mr. Speck has offered to deliver a memorandum of his observations and ideas which would help the City of Tigard create a specific action plan to reach our community's goal.

Ideally, we would like to host Mr. Speck in May or June 2015. We have initiated a conversation with a local theater, The Broadway Rose, to host the event. This theater can seat 270 people and can accommodate a projector and screen. In May the theater is available Mondays and Tuesdays. In June the theater is only available on Mondays. For the workshop, the city would be happy to offer our facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.tigard-or.gov/city\\_hall/comprehensive\\_plan.php](http://www.tigard-or.gov/city_hall/comprehensive_plan.php)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.tigard-or.gov/city\\_hall/transportation\\_system\\_plan.php](http://www.tigard-or.gov/city_hall/transportation_system_plan.php)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.tigard-or.gov/Projects/Strategic\\_Plan/Strategic\\_Plan1.pdf](http://www.tigard-or.gov/Projects/Strategic_Plan/Strategic_Plan1.pdf)

The city will provide all relevant background materials for the events and will promote the workshop and presentation through all available resources. This event will be widely advertised to regional partners and other metro-area suburban cities. What we learn and figure out in Tigard can be applied to other post-war suburbs with similar development patterns and walkability challenges.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and the opportunity to work with the TGM program. The City of Tigard has laid the foundation to achieve our goal of becoming "the Pacific Northwest's most walkable community where people of all ages and abilities enjoy healthy and interconnected lives." We seek an opportunity to jump start the journey toward actualization and believe that a workshop and presentation by Mr. Speck would be ideal.

Please let us know if there is any additional information you need from us. On behalf of the Tigard community, we are excited to work with you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marty Wine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marty" and last name "Wine" clearly distinguishable.

Marty Wine  
City Manager