

To: Portland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: July 14, 2026

Re: Citizen's Initiatives: 20 Is Plenty and Prohibit "Right Turn on Red"

I am proposing we draft and mount two separate campaigns for citizen's initiatives to force the city council to enact the two concepts, "20 mph max speed limit on most city streets" and "Prohibit Right Turn on Red" on all streets.

These should be separate campaigns as we should be separating the two issues for a couple of reasons. We do not want to hamstring one being on a dual item ballot question that may engender negative feedback from the voters killing both concepts. We have not done any polling to determine the real appetite in Portland for these two proposals.

The city council would likely pass the first directly because sending it to voters and passing would hamstring them for five years.¹ They probably would also pass the second on the heels of the former, if we got as many signatures for both initiatives.

Drafting language for both should be pretty straight forward.

The basic process is as follows:

The presentation of a petition to the city council signed by at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) voters.

Ten (10) registered voters of the city may file with the city clerk an affidavit to constitute the petitioners' committee.

The city clerk shall prepare the petition forms with a copy of the submitted ordinance. The petition may be circulated for signature by registered voters of the city for eighty (80) days from the original date of issuance of the petition.

The petition is submitted to the clerk for review of the signatures and certification. The approved is then presented to the council for direct approval or send to a vote at the next election.

¹. The council directly passed the coal field prohibition ordinance based on suggestions that there really was no one who would mount an opposition campaign.

Obtaining 1,500 valid signatures at the November general election will be quite easy and could be done with about 15 volunteers. We would be able to collect signatures on both initiatives at the same time.

So the time line is that we would want to submit the petitions applications to the city clerk on or about October 15, 2026.

ARTICLE III. INITIATION AND REFERENDUM
[AS APPROVED BY PORTLAND VOTERS ON MAY 7, 1991]

Sec. 9-36. How invoked.

(a) In general. The submission to the vote of the people of any proposed ordinance dealing with legislative matters on municipal affairs or of any such ordinance enacted by the city council and which has not yet gone into effect, may be accomplished by the presentation of a petition therefor to the city council in the manner hereinafter provided and signed by at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) voters. The submission of a proposed ordinance, or amendment or repeal, in whole or in part, of an ordinance already in effect shall be hereinafter referred to as the direct initiation of legislation or "initiative." The submission of a petition to override any ordinance passed by the city council but which has not yet gone into effect shall be hereinafter referred to as the "people's veto."

(b) Applicability. Neither this article, nor ordinances dealing with appropriations, tax levy, or with wages or hours of city employees shall be subject to the initiative and "people's veto" referendum provisions herein established.

(c) Petition procedure. Any ten (10) registered voters of the city may file with the city clerk an affidavit stating:

- (1) That the ten (10) registered voters will constitute the petitioners' committee;
- (2) The names and addresses of the ten (10) registered voters;
- (3) The address to which all notices to the committee are to be sent; and
- (4) That the ten (10) registered voters will circulate the petition and file it in proper form.

Upon filing of said affidavit by ten (10) such voters, the city clerk shall have seven (7) calendar days to prepare the proper petition forms pursuant to section 9-37 below with a copy of the submitted ordinance either printed on the petition or attached thereto and shall provide such petition to members of the petitioners' committee and to any other registered city voter who wishes to circulate it. The petition may be circulated for signature by registered voters of the city for eighty (80) calendar days from the original date of issuance of the petition, which date shall be noted by the clerk on each blank form; provided, however, that any petition for the "people's

veto" of an ordinance not in effect must be filed with the city clerk prior to the effective date of said ordinance or within thirty (30) calendar days after passage by the city council, whichever is less. Any "people's veto" petition not so filed is void. All provisions as to the filing and the form of petitions in this article, other than the aforementioned time frame, shall apply to both initiative and "people's veto" petitions.

(d) Filing of petition. The petition must be returned to the city clerk for filing by close of business within eighty (80) calendar days from the date of issuance thereof. If the eightieth day is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, said petition shall be filed by the close of business of the next immediate business day. All petition forms not so submitted are void. The petition forms shall be assembled as one (1) instrument, with each page numbered, attached to a written statement from the petitioners' committee stating the number of petition forms being filed. The clerk shall certify the date of filing and the number of forms returned.

(e) Verification of petition.

(1) Within fifteen (15) calendar days after the petition is filed, the clerk shall complete a certificate as to its sufficiency, specifying, if it is insufficient, the particulars which render it defective. The clerk shall promptly send a copy of the certificate to the petitioners' committee by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand-delivery, and shall file a copy with the city council.

(2) A petition certified insufficient may be amended once, if the petitioners' committee files a written notice of intention to amend it with the clerk within eight (8) calendar days after mailing by certified mail, return receipt requested, or hand-delivery of the copy of the clerk's certificate. Within ten (10) calendar days after this notice of intention is filed, the petitioners' committee may file a supplementary petition to correct technical deficiencies in the original which shall, in form and content, comply with the requirements for an original petition but which shall not contain additional (3) Within five (5) calendar days after a supplementary petition is filed, the clerk shall complete and file a certificate as to its sufficiency in the manner provided for in an original petition.

(4) Any petition finally determined to be insufficient is void. The clerk shall stamp the petition void and seal and retain it in the manner required for secret ballots.

(5) The clerk's decision as to the sufficiency of the petitions shall be a final determination, reviewable as provided by law.

(f) Hearing. At its first regular meeting after receipt of a report that a petition is sufficient and has at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) valid signatures of the registered voters of the city, the city council shall set a date for public hearing, which hearing shall be held within thirty (30) calendar days thereafter. Notice of the hearing shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the city at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing and shall contain the text of the petition. As provided by section 9-39, the city council shall take the necessary steps to submit to the voters of the city the ordinance proposed in the petition; provided that, in the case of the "people's veto" referendum, the entire repeal by the city council of the ordinance sought to be referred and, in the case of the initiative, the passage by the city council of the desired ordinance shall put an end to all proceedings under the petition.

(Code 1968, § 102.1; Ord. No. 349-75, 6-16-75; Ord. No. 262-91, 3-4-91)

CITY OF TIGARD, OREGON
TIGARD CITY COUNCIL
ORDINANCE NO. 21- AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE CITY OF TIGARD TO
IMPLEMENT 20 MPH SPEED ZONES IN SELECT AREAS

WHEREAS, the 2019 Oregon Legislature passed SB 558, amending ORS 810.180 to authorize cities to designate by ordinance a speed that is five MPH lower than statutory speed on non-arterial streets in “residence districts” under their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, reduced vehicle speeds supports Goal 3, Policy 6 of the adopted Transportation System Plan: The city shall develop and implement public street standards that recognize the multi-purpose nature of the street right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, reduced vehicle speeds supports Goal 3, Policy 7 of the adopted Transportation System Plan: The city shall design all projects on Tigard city streets to encourage pedestrian and bicycle travel; and WHEREAS, reduced vehicle speeds supports Goal 4, Policy 1 of the adopted Transportation System Plan: The city shall consider the intended uses of a street during the design to promote safety, efficiency and multi-modal needs; and

WHEREAS, reduced vehicle speeds supports Goal 4, Policy 7 of the adopted Transportation System Plan: The city shall enhance and maintain a neighborhood traffic management program to address issues of excessive speeding and through traffic on local residential streets; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a Complete Streets Policy, which states, “The City will utilize current and emerging best practices in transportation network and facility design to best serve the multi-modal transportation needs of all users, including review of operating speeds.”

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF TIGARD ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Consistent with ORS 810.180, the City of Tigard establishes a designated speed of 20 MPH, 5 MPH lower than the statutory speed of 25 MPH, on local streets in “residence districts” as defined by ORS 801.430 and 810.180(12).

SECTION 2: Per ORS 810.180, the designated speed established by this Ordinance will take effect on a segment of a local street upon the City’s removal of any 25 MPH signs and installation of 20 MPH signs on that street segment. The City Engineer will have the authority to approve eligible locations and direct staff to install necessary signage.

SECTION 3: This ordinance shall be effective 30 days after its passage by the council, signature by the mayor, and posting by the city recorder.

Falls Church, Virginia

20 is Plenty

In 2024 and 2025, the City of Falls Church implemented the "20 is Plenty" initiative, a community-wide safety program that reduced speed limits on residential streets to 20 mph. This project was a key component of the City's commitment to the Vision Zero goals, aiming to eliminate traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by lowering vehicle speeds in high-pedestrian areas.

Project Implementation & Results

The transition occurred in several phases, beginning with a successful pilot program in selected neighborhoods before expanding city-wide.

- **Signage Updates:** City crews replaced or updated hundreds of speed limit signs throughout residential districts to clearly communicate the new 20 mph limit.
- **Public Education:** The City launched a comprehensive outreach campaign, including yard signs, social media updates, and community meetings to inform residents and visitors of the change.
- **Infrastructure Adjustments:** In conjunction with the speed limit changes, the City evaluated traffic calming measures, such as speed humps and narrowed lane markings, to naturally encourage slower driving speeds.

Chapter 26 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Sec. 26-3. - Powers and duties of city manager.

(a) The city manager, except as otherwise directed by this chapter or the council, shall have power and is hereby authorized:

- (1) To regulate the operation and parking of vehicles within the city by the erection or placing of proper signs or markers indicating prohibited or limited parking, restricted speed areas, one-way streets, through or arterial streets, stop streets, U-turns, school zones, hospital zones, loading and unloading zones, safety zones, crosswalks, quiet zones, play streets and other signs or markers indicating the place and manner of operating or parking vehicles within the city.
- (2) To regulate the movement of pedestrians upon the streets and sidewalks of the city by the erection or placing of proper signs or markers indicating the flow of pedestrian traffic.
- (3) To designate bus stops and taxicab stands and to erect signs prohibiting the parking of vehicles other than buses and taxicabs at such stops.
- (4) To designate truck routes and to regulate the parking of vehicles of various sizes and weights.
- (5) To secure all such necessary signs or markers to be erected or placed on any street or part of a street when he deems such action necessary.
- (6) To mark off traffic lanes on streets and parts of streets indicating and directing the flow of traffic, when, in the judgment of the city manager, such action is necessary.

- (7) To make and enforce temporary regulations to cover emergencies or special conditions.
- (8) To reduce the speed limit on any local street to 20 mph, provided that such reduced speed limit is indicated by lawfully placed signs.

Burlington, Vermont

Only cover a small portion of the city.

