



[Comprehensive Plan] Form submission from: Comprehensive Plan Planning Commission Comment Form

Multnomah County <webmaster@multco.us>
To: compplan@multco.us

Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 6:10 PM

Submitted on Thursday, April 21, 2016 - 6:10pm
Submitted values are:

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Comments:
Dear Planning Commission:

As a resident of the rural west side and a member of the Cornelius Pass Advisory Committee, I offer the following information related to the proposed Transportation System Plan.

Transportation System Plan Policy 11 is a bad policy. Opposition to any new regional roadways contemplated by a regional transportation authority flies in the face of the type of regional cooperation and planning required by Statewide Goal 12. In addition, this policy of opposition violates Goal 2. It is not based on an adequate factual base as it contemplates opposition despite any relevant information presented by a regional body. The Policy is effectively a moratorium without following the statutory process. In addition, the Policy is not supported by evidence- in fact, evidence supports the need for new transportation facilities given the raise in through commuter use of West side roads and the arterial, Cornelius Pass Road (CP Road). CP Road is routinely used by trucks hauling hazardous materials because they cannot use Hwy. 26 and go through the tunnels. There are frequent incidents when these trucks and others turn over due to steep curves on the road. This shuts down the road for residents, school buses, and commuters, alike. The rural nature of all the roads suffer because traffic diverts to other roads. Not having a safe alternative built for the use as it exists and is projected into the future, is and will obliterate the rural nature of west side and its roads. Many of the suggested solutions simply are not realistic. Finally, the Policy violates the coordination requirements of Goal 2 because it prohibits the County from conducting the required coordination with affected government units and regional planning agencies. Finally, regardless of the Statewide Goals, a policy of flat opposition to options proposed by governmental partners regardless of the factual basis or need is bad public policy. As citizens, we rely on the County to cooperate with our partners and consider all options, whether they bear out or not. Sticking the County's proverbial head in the sand and ignoring regional transportation needs benefits no one.

Regarding the Planned and Programmed projects, the Cornelius Pass Advisory Committee (CAC) was asked to prioritize all of the safety improvements needed on the road based on the funding then at hand. Based on the data provided by the County, the Committee identified the Skyline Boulevard/Cornelius Pass Road intersection improvements and other road improvements as high priority. Therefore, the intersection project should be changed to a high priority project. In addition, due to the significant safety concerns existing on the road, all funding available for road improvements should be used for the previously identified safety improvements, BEFORE improvements are made for recreational purposes. Since the CAC last met and since the 2013 data point provided to you, there have been at least 2 deaths on the road, multiple accidents, and hazardous material spills, going directly into the roadside creek and wildlife habitat. It isn't clear from the materials whether Project No. W3

includes all of the safety projects identified by the CAC, or only the projects within the 9 million dollar funding. If the Project does not include all of the safety projects identified by the CAC, it should. For example, only minimal improvements to the S curves (where many trucks turn over) are funded within the 9 million funding stream. However, a true fix to the S curves was identified as a need and should be a high priority. The Planning Commission should review all of the CAC data and documents and implement the CAC's work.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sarah Hanson

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://multco.us/node/28556/submission/51735>

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