



HOLTZ, Andrew

August 27, 2015

Agenda #: R.1

Kevin COOK <kevin.c.cook@multco.us>

Support recreational bicycling. Fix Policy 5.9 of the Sauvie Island plan.

Andrew Holtz <holtzreport@juno.com>

Tue, Aug 25, 2015 at 1:03 PM

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Commissioners:

The county must support and enhance the health and well-being of our community, as well as the quality of life of residents. That includes encouraging recreational bicycling, which provides powerful benefits not only to people who bicycle, but to the economy, livability and safety of the entire county.

The proposed Policy 5.9 of the draft Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Rural Area Plan must be changed to remove the dangerous phrase opposing support for recreational bicycling. The phrase "without encouraging purely recreational bicycle activities that may increase this level of vehicle conflict on roadways" should be deleted.

I understand that Sauvie Island residents are bothered by clogged roads, but almost all of the congestion is created by motor vehicles. Attempting to dissuade people from riding bicycles on the island is wrong-headed and pointless.

We live in a floating home on the Willamette River in Sellwood. On nice summer weekends and during peak fishing season, the river in front of our home is filled with boaters, some of them peering in our windows or blasting their stereos. But the river, like the roads on Sauvie Island, are public... and they are among the things that make living here so wonderful for everyone in the county. To say the county should not encourage recreational bicycling on public roads would be like me advocating closure of the Willamette Park boat ramp, because it "encourages" those recreational boaters. That action would be selfish, wrong, and undermine fundamental county values.

I am a member of the Multnomah County Bicycle & Pedestrian CAC (MBPCAC) and a member of the current Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan & TSP update CAC. These comments are just mine as an individual, but it should be noted that the Bicycle & Pedestrian CAC conveyed its strong objection to the draft language of Policy 5.9 to county staff at its July 8, 2015 meeting. The MBPCAC was created by ordinance to directly advise the Board on relevant matters. The Commissioners should heed the voice of the committee in this case.

Regards,

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