



PAULSEN, Kirk

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Agenda #: R.1

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Sauvie Island DRAFT Transportation Plan Language Concerns about Recreational Cycling

Kirk Paulsen <kirk.paulsen@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 25, 2015 at 2:17 PM

To: simcplanning@multco.us, mult.chair@multco.us, district1@multco.us

Hello,

I've been made aware of some very unfortunate language within the DRAFT Transportation Plan for Sauvie Island as it relates to bicycling. The fact that 'recreational cycling' is specifically addressed as its own activity is concerning enough, but coupled with the idea that such cycling should be discouraged is discriminatory and could easily lead to unsafe encounters on the roadway.

Personally, I really enjoy what Sauvie Island has to offer. It's a beautiful setting, and there are many destinations worth visiting. However, I don't own a car, so when I visit the island I ride my bike there. It's not a recreational trip, it's a trip to a destination by bike. But is it viewed as a recreational trip by somebody that doesn't want anymore bikes on the island? Possibly, and that's upsetting as all I want to do is get to a place of business to support them and enjoy the scenery along the way, but I've experienced my fair share of harassment on the island while biking and it isn't fun. Language like this only further solidifies hatred towards people that bike, whether that person biking chooses to do so for pure recreational purposes or utilitarian purposes, or a combination of the two.

Please remove language within the DRAFT Transportation Plan that refers to recreational cycling and the act of discouraging it, as it is harmful language and will lead to exacerbating existing friction between people that do not want anymore bicyclists on the roads and the people they perceive to be recreational cyclists, whether they are recreating or not.

Thank you for considering this request.

Cheers,

-Kirk