



BIRNBAUM, Ed

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Agenda #: R.1

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

Bicycling on Sauvie Island

Ed Birnbaum <edbirnbaum@comcast.net>

Tue, Aug 25, 2015 at 4:28 PM

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

I'm alarmed by the following language in the Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Transportation System Plan:

"Support the use of bicycle transportation alternative to automotive use without encouraging purely recreational bicycle activities that may increase this level of vehicle conflict on roadways."

I've frequently bicycled to and around the island, at least once a year, over a period of many years. I've never seen anything that would make me think that that is a rational or desirable policy. I can imagine

that motorists who work or have business there might be annoyed by having to wait for oncoming auto traffic to clear before passing one or more bicyclists, especially if the bicyclists aren't riding single file, as they should.

But adding all such delays together could never be more than a matter of seconds for any given trip. Some cyclists might be careless or discourteous, but no more so than other tourists, and bikes are inherently quieter and

certainly less damaging to the environment, both local and global. Cyclists spend some money there and the opportunity to do the wonderful Sauvie Island loop must be one of the attractions drawing Bike Tourists to

the Portland area. I think we do want to encourage that kind of tourism, don't we? And I certainly hope that you don't want to discourage any kind of healthy exercise and outdoor activity by your constituents. If anything,

we should be doing more to *encourage* bicycling on Sauvie Island and everywhere else in the metro area. Please see that this language is cut from the plan and say "no" to collecting fees from people who just want to ride their bikes on these public roads.

Sincerely,

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