



Bicycle Transportation Alliance

August 27, 2015

Agenda #: R.1

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

SIMC Rural Area Plan Feedback

Carl Larson <carl@btaoregon.org>

Tue, Aug 25, 2015 at 4:12 PM

To: simcplanning@multco.us

Cc: Kevin COOK <kevin.c.cook@multco.us>, joanne.fuller@multco.us, district1@multco.us

Hello.

I've attached a letter from our executive director regarding problematic language in the Sauvie Island Multnomah Channel (SIMC) Rural Area Plan. We hope that this issue can be addressed and that the otherwise-excellent plan can move forward.

Thanks!

Carl

Carl Larson | Engagement Manager
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SIMC RAP BTA comments.pdf

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August 25th, 2015

Kevin Cook
Multnomah County Land Use Planning
1600 SE 190th Avenue
Portland, OR 97233

Re: Sauvie Island / Multnomah Channel Rural Area Plan

Dear Mr. Cook,

The Bicycle Transportation Alliance creates healthy, sustainable communities by making bicycling safe, convenient, and accessible. While most of Multnomah County's proposed Sauvie Island / Multnomah Channel Rural Area plan matches that mission, one bit of language appears to run counter to that mission and, we submit, the county's.

Specifically, Policy 5.9 in the proposed plan aims to "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."

The county should not prohibit encouragement of safe, healthy recreation.

Strictly speaking, "recreation" is simply something one does for enjoyment when one is not working. The bulk of the motor vehicle and bike traffic on Sauvie Island's roads is recreational – off-island users seeking beaches, berry patches, or just a chance to enjoy rural Multnomah County. In assessing opportunities for active living, the county's 2011 Built Environment Atlas states "the health benefits of rural environments include better air quality and wider opportunities for contact with nature than is available in urban settings." We must work to provide safe, equitable access to these places for ALL users.

As the regional body concerned with our region's health, Multnomah County encourages active, healthy lifestyles including recreational bicycling. The County's land use plans should reflect that fact.

Sincerely,



Rob Sadowsky
Executive Director

Cc: Joanne Fuller, Multnomah County Health Dept. Director
Jules Bailey, Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1

