



DAVIS, Tim  
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## Embarrassing 1950s-style language and attitude toward cyclists on Sauvie Island that only hurts all of us

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Tim Davis <pdxfan@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 25, 2015 at 4:19 PM

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

Dear Multnomah County Commission,

This is Tim Davis, and I am shocked by how Portland and Multnomah County \*continues\* to regress on ALL forms of transportation! We are getting lapped by cities all over North America and Europe when it comes to bicycle-friendly (which means \*\*people\*\*-friendly) infrastructure, and I'm constantly having to fight an uphill battle when it comes to our elected leaders' attitudes toward all forms of transportation other than single-occupancy vehicles.

But the irony is that if we were to quadruple the percentage of people BIKING on our streets, it would benefit ALL users of our streets, \*including\* those who solely drive cars from A to B!! Literally every major urban visionary around the world knows this by now. But we in Portland are STILL stuck in the 1950s!!

So, the saddest part of all is that I'm no longer surprised by the language in Multnomah County's draft Sauvie Island transportation plan stating that it would discourage "recreational bicycle activities." Plus, how do you claim to encourage bicycle riding for transportation while simultaneously discouraging it for recreation?

I really do fully understand what you're trying to say about "recreational cyclists," but cyclists have a legal right to use our \*publicly\* funded roads for any type of riding, whether for recreation, commuting or any other purpose. So, your language in the plan that can easily appear to be anti-cycling needs to be removed from the plan immediately.

Plus, Sauvie Island has INCREDIBLE potential to be one of the most beautifully pastoral \*people\*-friendly places near any big city in the U.S. If Sauvie Island were this close to New York, Chicago or Montreal, it would be a PARADISE for cycling (and thus for ALL road users!). All you have to do is \*visit\* at least 50 cities in North America and Europe to see the incredible infrastructure that is being provided for those who get from A to B by bicycle.

For example, go to Amsterdam, and you'll see that it is INCREDIBLY easy to get around by ALL forms of transportation. In fact, it's easier to drive a CAR in Amsterdam than it is to bike, because there are \*very\* few people driving cars! So, it's an absolute dream to walk, bike, drive or take transit in Amsterdam.

And yet we in Portland (claiming to be bike-friendly) are falling behind EVERY big city I've visited in the past two years. I've visited over 70 cities, and we are behind literally ALL of them when it comes to any progress at all on cycling. This unbelievably disturbing trend needs to be reversed NOW so that we can benefit ALL users of our streets!!

Thank you so much for your consideration,  
Tim Davis