

Bryan Colbourne - Fwd: Testimony on Land Use Actions, Case Number CA16-04

From: Amber Mathiesen
To: Bryan Colbourne
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Subject: Fwd: Testimony on Land Use Actions, Case Number CA16-04

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>>> Smiths <happytrailssmith@usfamily.net> 10/13/2016 8:31 AM >>>
 Dear council and planning members:

Thank you for the hearing last night regarding the urban growth boundary and river crossing. Unfortunately, I forgot about it at first and was just getting dinner on the table when my husband reminded me. He took the car. I later walked over, arriving about 40 minutes late. I live on the corner of Hickory and Hazel. Fortunately, Pine Street is still crossable by foot. I shudder to think what it will be like if a bridge starts dumping traffic onto it...

However it was too long for me to stand up and speak, so here is my testimony:

Living in Highland Neighborhood, I have been following the river crossing for many years. I went to a meeting years back when about 15 -20 lovely plans were spread around the room and I was worried when I saw a couple of the drawings dumping onto Pine and Hickory. "Don't worry," I was told, "That's just one of many ideas." Not too long after, it became the "preferred crossing."
 Preferred by whom?

I heard a lot of testimony last night. There was none that convinced me this alternative was the best or even necessary. I think mostly this is about money in the pockets of those car dealerships that bought up the wetland along the parkway. It's not about congestion, not about growth, not about the future, and certainly not about livability in Salem's neighborhood, i.e., not about PEOPLE.

Does the bridge get crowded twice a day at rush hour? Yes. So does Mission, Lancaster, 17th Street, 12th Street, Hawthorne, Silverton, you get the picture. Anywhere in town. That's life. The answer isn't more skybridges, the answer is fewer cars on the roads, neighborhoods and businesses built for foot and bus access, better public transportation, etc. *Please, somebody, listen. Don't be like the one lady said last night and be on the wrong side of history.*

Finally, if you must build a bridge (who will pay for it, the businessmen and women?), put it out of the neighborhoods. Highland and Grant cannot take any more of this. The Parkway on the south, the train tracks sideways through the middle, a bridge dumping west salem over the river to the west, plus increased traffic on Pine? My neighbors and I will be a tiny island in the middle. Think about those kids having to negotiate all of this. Plenty of people have spoken about the impact on the west side. Not many are speaking out about the impact on the east side. **Most people don't even know about it. That's a problem.**

In conclusion: we really do not need the bridge (use what we have, make the wonderful changes suggested by others about the on and off ramps, widening and fixing what we have, lane changes during emergencies, staggering hours, better mass transit, etc., look around and to the future of cars), we do not want the bridge (citizens vs businessmen, take a listen), and we cannot pay for the bridge. Don't be doing this in the dark. I heard what parks and rec said last night. I heard what mass transit said. Take a stand for the people.

Thank you for taking my testimony.

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