

McCall, Marilee

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CP16 #0231

From: Susan Setterberg <smsetterberg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2014 8:22 PM
To: Cnty 2016 Comp Plan
Subject: Comments on 2016 comp plan update

After attending the open house in Ridgefield on August 17th, I have the following comments on the update plan.

Light Rail: As a new resident of Clark County, I am surprised at the seeming lack of support for light rail; however, when I've talked to county residents about it, I get a different response in favor of some kind of light rail. Having lived on the outskirts of four major metropolitan areas during my work career of 31+ years, I have found public transportation in the form of a light rail in three of those four areas to be an excellent way for both speed and cost to get into a city for work and for entertainment. It is inconceivable to me that Clark County would not participate in a light rail project that would connect to the Portland metro area system and provide ease of movement within the county. Traffic coming in and out of Portland at commute times is almost unbearable now. What would it be like in five or ten more years? I've heard opponents blame Portland but I wonder if any of those folks have been in the traffic and counted the license plates creeping by. I have. Easily, 60% of the cars creeping through the I-5 corridor are from WA. So, take some responsibility, look to the future, and make a plan that includes light rail as a transportation alternative. It will never get cheaper; traffic will only get worse.

Code Changes for Park lands: I understand that a number of park lands created in residential areas after the fact are still designated as residential rather than being reclassified as parks. This change should happen to protect the parks so the neighborhoods will not lose their parks for which they have worked so hard when developers seek to turn them into residential or commercial use.

Wildlife Habitat: There needs to be greater consideration of habitat quality and variety for wildlife in Clark County. Having a plan for recreational parks and relying on the few refuges is not sufficient. Quality habitat needs to be diverse and large enough to *sustain diverse wildlife* populations. There have been numerous studies and reports on forest fragmentation and wildlife corridors which should be considered when designating open space intended for wildlife and connecting those areas. Putting a treed path or grass ditch behind a development and designating it a green belt does not mean it will adequately support birds and other animals. The needs of a variety of species native to the area need to be studied and considered. Rivers, creeks, meadows, farm land, forests, grasslands, wetlands, etc. can all be a part of making Clark County a wonderful place to live when they are full of wildlife.

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