

Exh 25 RE woodinville planning issues and other nightmares  
From: Thomas Hansen <thomash@ci.woodinville.wa.us>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 7:56 AM  
To: Jim Hansink  
Cc: Dave Kuhl; Lisa Grueter  
Subject: RE: Woodinville planning issues and other nightmares

Categories: Red Category

Jim-

Thanks for the comments. I will forward them on to the folks putting together the City's comprehensive plan for public review and comment that is currently on-going.

Traffic modeling results show that 171st with one lane in each direction and roundabouts at intersections will be able to handle the traffic 20 years from now that will probably use that road. The predicted volume of traffic on 171st will approach what is currently going through the roundabouts at SR 202/145th. I am confident that this solution will balance the needs of all transportation system users, not just vehicles.

Tom

From: Jim Hansink [mailto:jhansink@gmail.com]  
Sent: Saturday, January 17, 2015 2:40 PM  
To: Thomas Hansen  
Subject: Woodinville planning issues and other nightmares

Hi Tom,

I read the council meeting summary in the local paper last night. It caused me to rethink some of the issues we have talked about in the past. As you know I attended the last Planning Comm meeting and was impressed by the dedication exhibited, but I also was painfully aware that there will be no easy solutions.

I believe that the highest priority should be assigned to traffic solutions. Our city suffers from a combination of poor infrastructure and limiting geography. All roads leading into and out of Woodinville force traffic into two-lane constrictions. Most of the time this is not a serious limitation. However, during the five or six peak hour period traffic is completely snarled. I am reminded of an example from statistics class in school. Essentially it states that a man can drown in a river with an average depth of two inches. Over a 24-hour period traffic in Woodinville is probably pretty good - in terms of cars/hour/24-hr day.

Here is a recent example - as though you needed another one. I recently returned from Redmond along #202. It was about 4:45 or 5:00. I encountered blocked and stopped traffic at the intersection of #202 and NE 124 St. That was the worst I've seen.

Lastly, regarding 171st. I avoid 175th like a plague zone unless Linda has me going to the store

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or unless we are going to a movie. I - and many others - use 171st as a safety  
valve. It allows me  
to by-pass the worst of the traffic issues in my home town. Sort of sad, isn't it.  
Your proposal as  
outlined in the paper would reduce the only adequate traffic artery in the local  
system and  
replace it with a scenic corridor with lights and crosswalks.

The Democrat in me says "Great! We need beauty in our lives and those folks in the  
apartments  
can safely walk to Center City!" The Republican in me takes a slightly different  
view. Adding to  
the congestion will not solve the downtown problem, and removal of two lanes along  
171st will  
slow down the entire system. It would be nice to give everyone a happy meal and say  
we have a  
livable city. But it is not that simple.

As to the apartment dwellers..... I can sympathize with them. As 171st continues  
drawing traffic  
from 175th their problem will only get worse. Has the City considered placing two  
pedestrian  
overpass bridges across 171st and leaving the number of lanes unchanged? It might be  
worth a  
look.

Lastly - still thinking like a heartless bastard Republican - I might be inclined to  
remind the folks  
in the apartment block of the problems encountered by those who buy homes along the  
flightpaths of major airports. There is nothing new here folks. You saw it when you  
moved  
it! Actually the people who live in the apartments probably located along 171st  
PRECISELY  
because it was four lanes and the traffic moved so well. I would recommend a survey  
of these  
people to see how they feel about trading traffic issues for a center lane of  
flowers and greenery.  
You might be surprised.

As I say, I am sure you wrestle with these issues all the time, but I wanted to  
throw my  
comments out.

AND WHILE I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION ..... The Geological Society of America and the  
University are sponsoring a conference in February on landslides, property risk, and  
regulation.  
This is of course an outgrowth of the Oso tragedy. I mentioned it to Susan  
Boundy-Sanders. As  
both a geologist and an elected city official she might be in a unique position to  
contribute. The  
Oso slide is a big deal in the scientific community, and it will inevitably lead to  
questions of  
future risk management - questions that will have profound effects of some  
communities.

That's enough for this afternoon. Linda and I are going to the 4:30 show at the  
theater. That  
means I have to drive on 175th.....unless I by-pass it and use 171st!

Stay calm.

Jim Hansink

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