

Dear Beaverton City Commissioners

11/15/2014

I am submitting this written testimony for your consideration as you deliberate the development in the South Cooper Mountain area. I gave oral testimony on Nov. 5th but want to make additional comments regarding widening 175th to accommodate a third turn out lane and respond to the comment made that implied we shouldn't worry as changes are going to happen incrementally.

Having change occur incrementally is great if it means the development of the SCM area will be slowed down so that Washington County can get the transportation problems resolved on 175th. We need solutions NOW however for the traffic problems already created by the connection of 175th to Roy Rogers Road and the addition of Winkelman park. You have seen the pictures of the traffic backup on 175th and heard testimony from many who have to deal with this traffic problem NOW.

There is mention from staff that a third turn out lane could be added to address the concerns of current residents being able to enter or exit their driveways. This is definitely not a resolution to that problem! It does not address the issue that there are three humps or crests on the top of Cooper Mountain that do not allow visibility to oncoming traffic or for oncoming traffic to see vehicles entering or exiting 175th. Entering or exiting any of these driveways is extremely hazardous not just for residents, guest, and delivery people but for commuters as well. The addition of a third turn out lane would not address this issue at all. In fact, it would add yet another lane with extremely limited visibility. With people traveling between the posted speed of 45 mph and often up to 55mph or more, this is a disaster waiting to happen. The addition of a middle lane does nothing but get cars out of the way of the constant stream of cars.

There are 3 suggestions I would like you to consider. One is to do something to allow adequate visibility and decrease the probability of avoidable serious accidents. Secondly, strategically placed traffic signals that are synchronized with those at Scholls Ferry Road and Roy Rogers road to allow realistic opportunities for entering and exiting 175th. The one location I thought would be a natural place to put a signal would be at Winkelman Park, as those people are having a difficult time getting out as well, even though visibility is better than the residential driveways. Thirdly, reduce the speed limit to 35 miles per hour as that would also give us a fighting chance of getting on to 175th from our driveway. Lowering the speed limit would also reduce the risk to all residents and commuters due to the issues noted above.

Thank you for your consideration. I want to keep 175th as safe as possible for all.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Cobb

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