

Board of County Commissioners
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Dear Chair Lehan and Commissioners:

I understand that there is an open house on May 23rd, followed by a BCC discussion in early June, regarding the Sunnybrook Extension project. Our neighborhood association recently discussed this project, and voted to join other Milwaukie neighborhoods in their opposition to the project. We urge you to pull the plug now, while the road is only at 30% design, and not spend any more taxpayer funds on a project that is harmful, both to neighborhood integrity and the environment, and unneeded.

The extension of Sunnybrook is of marginal benefit to the Clackamas Community College/Oregon Institute of Technology campus, which would be better served by new access and parking via the Toys R Us site. Running a road from the 82nd and Sunnybrook intersection along the southern edge of the campus serves one primary purpose to give motorists on Sunnybrook a shortcut to Highway 224, Linwood Avenue, or Railroad Avenue. Facilitating increased commuter traffic through these neighborhoods violates the compact between the County and its residents when Highway 224 was built. That project cut the City of Milwaukie in half, with the implicit (and quite possibly explicit) assurance that through-going traffic would be funneled onto Highway 224 and not through Milwaukie neighborhoods. Keeping Harmony narrow indeed, perhaps even implementing traffic calming measures and designing campus access so that it encourages campus users to drive south to access Highway 224 to travel westward, would be the right move to protect the livability of these neighborhoods both inside and outside the City of Milwaukie.

Extending Sunnybrook would constitute not only a violation of past assurances and an unnecessary traffic burden on residents, but it will needlessly harm the habitat of the 3-Creeks area that residents have worked so long to improve. Even though the County has apparently committed to a narrower road footprint, a sizable swath of ancient oaks will nonetheless have to be removed. Even if no trees were impacted, the passing traffic will have detrimental effects on the oak and wetland habitat due to exponential increases in fumes and noise pollution.

Preserving the remaining remnants of Willamette Valley oak habitat is priority throughout the region. See The Oregon Conservation Strategy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/document_pdf/b-habitat_8.pdf. In our neighborhood, the City of Portland has invested significant efforts to remove towering Douglas fir trees from Elk Rock Island in order to

protect and enhance the oak/madrone habitat. See

http://www.portlandtribune.com/sustainable/story.php?story_id=129744593772426200

Why should we be going to such great lengths here to preserve oaks while cutting them a few miles away to make way for a road that everyone who resides in the vicinity opposes?

Please put an end to the Sunnybrook Extension project.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Bird
Chair, Island Station Neighborhood Association