

Doug McIntyre

From: David Pyle
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Karen Howe; EIS
Cc: Janet Wilson; Pauline Cantor; Sid; Don Gerend; Mike Bresko; John Rossi; Mary Doerrerr; Charles Bird; Doug McIntyre
Subject: EIS SCOPING COMMENTS - Sammamish Friends (501c3)
Attachments: Sammamish Friends EIN Comments July 26 2020.docx

Hi Karen,

Did you mean this to be titled "EIS" comments? If so, per the directions in the scoping notice (https://www.sammamish.us/attachments/legalnotices/55555/20200707_SEPA_DS_Sammamish%20GMHB%20Compliance_Transportation_Signed.pdf) comments should be submitted as indicated below:

Provide written comments by July 28, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Electronic submittal is preferred. Direct comment to:

<https://form.jotform.com/201746911320043>

~or~

Transportation Level of Service & Capital Facilities
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
City of Sammamish
801 228th Ave SE
Sammamish, WA 98075
ATTN: EIS Scoping Comment

~or~

eis@sammamish.us
RE: EIS Scoping Comment

As a convenience to you I have submitted your comments per the directions above on your behalf. In the future I ask that you follow direction in the notice for submittal of comment. My email address is not the proper portal to engage in this EIS process – I generally receive one or two emails per minute during the working day and it is likely that comments such as yours is inadvertently lost in the my in-box. For this reason we have created the EIS comment collection system and instructions.

Thank you for taking the time to provide comment on the scope of the EIS.

David Pyle
Director - Department of Community Development
City of Sammamish
(425)295-0521
dpyle@sammamish.us

During the COVID-19 outbreak, I am working remotely from City Hall.

From: Karen Howe <klhhowe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 4:18 PM

To: David Pyle <dpyle@sammamish.us>

Cc: Janet Wilson <wilsonjanet@comcast.net>; Pauline Cantor <pauline.cantor@outlook.com>; Sid <sid@sammamishfriends.org>; Don Gerend <don@gerend.com>; Mike Bresko <mikebresko@live.com>; John Rossi <roscoes4@msn.com>; Mary Doerrer <dbleBranch@comcast.net>; Charles Bird <birdandcat@aol.com>

Subject: RE: EIN comments, Sammamish Friends (501c3)

[CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL]

The Sammamish Friends board comments are enclosed.

Karen Howe
President
Sammamish Friends

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Karen Howe
206-619-3692
klhowe@gmail.com

Please be aware that email communications with members of the City Council, City Commissioners, or City staff are public records and are subject to disclosure upon request.

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July 26, 2020

TO: David Pyle, Sammamish Dept. of Community Development

FROM: Sammamish Friends Board Members

Sammamish Friends is a non-profit organization that grew out of the Sammamish Parks Commission in 2012. Sammamishfriends.org is the funding body for Sammamish Stormwater Stewards, Sammamish Walks, and Sammamish Community Wildlife Habitat. We sponsor the Sammamish Kids Mud Run and offer grants to support local conservation and sustainability efforts. More information can be found here: <https://sammamishfriends.org>

RE: Commit to an equitable and sustainable city

Amending the City's Comprehensive Plan and Municipal Code related to the City's transportation concurrency and level of service regulations must not derail conservation and sustainability goals established in the existing Comprehensive Plan (2015). Sammamish Friends is deeply concerned that this EIS non-project will have the unintended consequence of unrecoverable environmental damage to the Sammamish Plateau.

Our expectations:

- 1) The City must set more aggressive targets to fund parks and open space. Land acquisition for public use should be prioritized for parks, greenspace, multimodal transportation over roads designed for single occupancy vehicles. Add \$2M to the parks land acquisition budget with an expiration date of 12/2021.
- 2) Any new concurrency calculations (V/C) must include transit and rideshare service vehicles. Add a Transportation Master Plan to the SOW. Additionally, Sammamish concurrency calculations and service levels must include regional statistics and projected levels of service.
- 3) Enforce LEED-Silver-certified or above development in Town Center and all new public use buildings.
- 4) A core component of conserving our environment is to strategically place residential density into the proposed Town Center. Conduct a geological survey and determine impact on wetlands by single-family home developments vs. multifamily.
- 5) Sammamish's unique topography must be accommodated. Steep slopes and ravines in addition to geologically unstable ground should not be considered buildable.
- 6) View the Statement of Work through an equity lens. Equity is fundamental to the community we want to build and leads to a more dynamic and resilient community. A key driver of equity is the creation of more affordable housing options that become available through concentrating and planning growth. After all, Sammamish is built on stolen Indigenous land. As people who have benefited from privilege, we have the responsibility to design new systems that are equitable and inclusive.

Green Spaces, Greener Living

The City's surveys document that residents love and use our park system regularly and especially now during the prolonged COVID crisis. Parks and open spaces are the lungs of our Sammamish environment. Ensuring the Green Spine or public open space in Town Center is a priority. As our population grows, the Green Spine will also accommodate civic events that do not fit in our present city plaza.

Similarly, developing connections to and among our parks is common sense. It is vital to develop multiple connections from Lower Commons to Big Rock Park and Beaton Park. With connectivity, people—especially our underserved youth—are more likely to bike or walk to get there.

Land acquisition for parks and open space is rightly a priority. When appropriate land becomes available, the City should purchase it.

For several years, the Council properly focused on saving trees. Use transfer of development rights (TDRs) to increase density in the center of town and save/protect and add more trees throughout the Plateau.

The Urban Forestry Plan in its current state is underpowered. Land use planning should be implemented with specific tree canopy targets that include realistic timelines, effective resident education, and appropriate funding. Our UFP can be a phased approach. The Statement of Work should accommodate this.

Sustainability goals should no longer be just on paper. Sammamish should embody carbon neutrality, deep-green building codes, reduction in car usage (which requires workable transit, bike routes, and foot paths), and a plastic-bag ban.

Our aspirations should include community solar-panel projects, large-scale stormwater planning, and the use of geothermal heat.

The current pandemic has highlighted the need to be more self-sustaining. Residents were forced to leave Sammamish for necessities that could have been met in a well-planned in a town center. The City should use the pandemic as a tool to prove that we can change residents' single occupancy vehicle obsession. Clearly, residents' commuting behavior can be altered. A common workspace in Town Center would be an asset and reflective of more of us working from home as a permanent alternative to commuting.

Sammamish Friends Board