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Public Comment

Transportation is a pivotal issue for Sammamish.

We are a bedroom community, located on an "island," with limited access and exit points.

Are we going to get mass transit? That's the 64 million dollar question. When are we going to get mass transit?

Without mass transit, transportation on and off the plateau will continue to be problematic, and further development will only exacerbate this problem.

I listened to the discussion about the newest Issaquah schools going in by Providence Point on the south end of the plateau. With a capacity of 2,000 to 2500 kids, high school and elementary, even with a staggered start, that's going to be a traffic disruptor for one of the main routes on and off the south end of the plateau.

I am concerned that continued growth on the plateau will only exacerbate an already difficult traffic situation. And attempts to fix the transportation problem by building more roads or widening existing roads will be incredible disruptive to the environment and to our community.

I am concerned that developers will continue to build more huge houses on the plateau. If the zoning gets changed, I'd like to see a down-zone so that a development can't contain so many huge houses so close together. Housing *should* be concentrated around the Town Center, however, what we need is more affordable housing (the new houses near me start at 1.2 million!) and we need housing for seniors. Senior housing units around the Town Center would result in less traffic during peak hours and offer seniors the ability to walk to amenities.

I personally think that before we plan our traffic we should first consider connecting our parks with walking trails and wildlife corridors, and plan our roads around that. If we plan for roads first, trail connectivity will be lost. We need to be a walking city so people can walk to parks, schools, work, businesses, church.

Sammamish has exceptional parks. I think that the true green spine of Sammamish runs from the Beaton Hill property to Big Rock Park A, almost to Pine Lake. I personally think that the so-called green spine at Town Center should be a stormwater/rain garden and that the Town Center must be designed to support and handle its own rainwater on-site, not dump it downhill into our streams, to further disrupt Kokanee salmon spawning.

And, we cannot continue to lose our tree canopy. Global warming is a reality, and we need our trees! Please expedite the Urban Forest Management Plan, by contacting Forterra (Green City Partnerships) to manage this plan.