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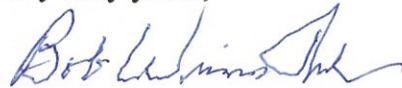
Members of the City Council
City of Wilsonville
29799 SW Town Center Rd., Loop E
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Supplement to Testimony—Hearing on Aurora Airport Expansion, Nov. 27, 2018

Dear Council Members:

Enclosed is a bullet-point supplement to my testimony at the hearing before the City Council referred to above. I thank each of you for the opportunity to express my views concerning one aspect of the subject matter considered at that hearing. I also thank you for such consideration of the enclosed supplement as you may deem it warrants.

Very truly yours,



Robert L. Wiesenthal

Encl.:as

Aurora Airport Expansion – Traffic Issues

- I have heard estimates as high as 4,000 additional vehicles per day on I-5 will attend Aurora Airport expansion. I haven't verified those estimates but even if the number of additional vehicles is only 20% of that estimate, it means an additional 800 vehicles each day.
- These numbers are *in addition to* the normal increase in traffic brought about by the expanding metropolitan area population. Simple observation shows that traffic has grown exponentially since my family moved to Wilsonville ten years ago.
- Additional vehicle traffic will not be spread evenly throughout the day; it will be concentrated during the rush hours. Using an 800 vehicles per day guess, it will not mean an additional 30 vehicles per hour all day but closer to 200 vehicles per hour for 2 hours, morning and evening.
- Problems arising from additional Airport Expansion traffic on I-5 are not confined to the 6 lanes of I-5. It means additional traffic issues for and within the adjacent communities—not just Charbonneau where I live—but the rest of Wilsonville, Canby, Aurora, and even as far South as Woodburn..
- The City of Wilsonville is already coping with significant traffic congestion;
 - I-5 between Elligsen Road and Wilsonville Road is, as my wife calls it, the “Wilsonville Welcome.” Others might call it the “Wilsonville Wait . . . and Wait . . .”
 - Congestion on Boones Ferry Road has increased dramatically from vehicles avoiding I-5 especially during rush hours.
 - This, in turn, has led to huge (and dangerous) congestion at the intersection of Boones Ferry Road and Wilsonville Road.
 - A similar situation exists on Wilsonville Road heading west from the Public Library intersection to both North and South I-5 ramps as well as to the intersection of Wilsonville Road and Boones Ferry Road.
- The notion that additional traffic in downtown Wilsonville is good for Wilsonville business ceases to be valid when that additional traffic is so congested that potential customers avoid the local merchants because getting to them, especially during Rush Hour, is time prohibitive.
- I understand that the City is coping as best it can with these problems, **witness**, the “No Turn on Red” signs at the Wilsonville Rd./Boones Ferry Road intersection between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm, as well as the additional lane on the access ramp to I-5 South.
- Wilsonville experience demonstrates that unanticipated traffic increases result in dangerous conditions, **witness**, accidents at the junction of Airport Road and Miley Road—I call it “Accident Junction.” I am personally distressed by a serious injury to a close friend who is suffering adverse lifetime effects from an accident at this spot.
- Detailed studies of the traffic effects of Aurora Airport Expansion on **all** of the communities affected must be undertaken **before and not after** any final decision on expansion. Such studies would take into account the revenue (tax) effects, *i.e.*, the amount of tax revenues directly enhancing traffic improvement, control and management in the entire area, both on I-5 and on adjacent streets and roads.

(over)

- The results of such studies must not just be “made available” to the public on a timely basis, they must be **publicized** so that public input is aware, informed and can make its concerns known in time for a sound decision to be made. People are busy at home and at work raising and supporting families, and the idea that most of them spend what little free time they have cruising the City website is not valid.
- Revenues available to improve traffic problems are already short: **see** the delay in available funds to create an auxiliary southbound lane between Wilsonville Road and Miley Road.
- Too many cities and municipalities have fallen into the **“We can’t afford to fix our traffic problems so let’s make them worse,”** syndrome. Wilsonville must not do so.
- Most people who think about it are not opposed to sensible development, but the key to sensible development is informed planning based on sound, fact-based analysis, not on uninformed projections devoid of factual basis other than profit to a few people whose interest is immediate and short term. Some projects warrant approval, some deferral for additional information and some outright rejection. It is respectfully submitted that based on the current meager fact-based information available to the public the Aurora Airport Expansion project should be rejected.

Bob Wiesenthal

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