

February 2, 2022

To: Jeff Adams, city staff and members of the Transportation Committees

From: Lolly Champion, member of the Transportation Committee

Re: Comments and observations for the February 3, 2022 meeting

I am sorry I cannot attend tomorrow's meeting, due to a previous commitment. Still, I wanted to participate by passing on my comments as plans going forward for improving and implementing necessary steps to enhance navigating our area for residents, businesses and visitors.

First, I want to tell Jeff and his staff, previous committees and the many community members who have been participating in formatting the current proposals since 2013 and before, thank you! A foundation has been solidly put in place to build upon.

Ursula K. Le Guin (1929-2018)
comments on living in Cannon Beach

“I loved it from the start.

Way, way back, in the 1960s, it was a little artists' hideaway town.

The sculptor Joe Police was mayor.

There were no mega-mansions owned by millionaires,
no big ugly cement walls on north beach, it had its own hardware stores,
an indie drugstore, and Osborne's excellent grocery.

It was more self-contained and a good deal, well, gnarlier,
but it's still pretty gnarly, thank goodness.”

Ursula Le Guin's remarks have been a hallmark of what made Cannon Beach so wonderfully special to vast numbers of visitors and residents who fall in love with this place, returning time and again then many of us one day decide never leave. It are those sentiments, my family's experiences here since the 1970s and now as a resident I understand and believe we have an obligation to keep a historic sense of our wind and sea blown village with a famous monolith, headland and lighthouse.

Historic communities across our nation and across the world progressively work to maintain what was rather than push forward to urbanize. These are the reasons I make the following suggestions in hopes of convincing and work towards going the extra mile to make changes for improved transportation and recreational opportunities while still preserving and protecting our coastal community as a village, not a subdivision.

Before considering my suggestions on the TSP (Strategy Plan) please review the following information. I am requesting we begin to take hold of this current information as a guide for all plans, ordinances and projects going forward in all city activities.

*“When hit with solar radiation, researchers found that **road asphalt releases up to 300% more emissions.** “That's important from the perspective of air quality, especially in sunny summertime conditions,” said P. Khare, a researcher at Yale University and another author of the research. Sept 2, 2020*

*“When concrete is placed over the roots, the digging required to create the sidewalk or patio or **concrete space damages critical root structures**. Covering this zone with concrete inhibits the tree's ability take in water and oxygen. As a result, laying concrete under an existing tree may result in the tree's death.”*

“While vehicle emissions are likely to decline in the future, asphalt emissions will likely become worse as cities expand and [climate change](#) accelerates.”

Because of our moderate, often rainy climate we may forget that **we are not immune from the effects of Global Warming**. Our recent Oregon fires, reduced wheat crops and last summer's major heat event are becoming a new norm. Our community, city government and elected officials must begin to think in new terms of building codes using products that use less water, minimize temperatures and introduce solar to each new, remodel, home or commercial and city buildings. Electric or Hybrid must be considered for vehicle replacement. Protecting our Urbanized Forest now becomes a to-do list priority. Cutting down 200 plus trees last year and approximately 1800 since 2016 while other communities continued to plant, nurture and demand replacement for any tree removed plus a cost make us ask if we are being cavalier in our approach to our inherited forest? The city could have filled numerous logging trucks ROW trees alone, which makes me wonder if Cannon Beach is part of Timber Unity and we are selling timber on the side. (Please don't send me angry emails...just a silly thought!)

Please consider the following suggestions:

1. Yes to a bathroom on the landing of the steps to Haystack, with a trash receptacle -
2. (Page 50) No paving of any pathways. Soft cover paths only -
3. Where Wetlands intersect trails (existing and proposed) the Wetland prevails and path is detoured -
4. Where processed new pathways have trees that would be considered in the way, the trail detours and the trees remain -
5. A combined trail and bike three fold map is a great idea and should be produced ASAP-
6. No lighting on any entrances or trail heads. Recommend flashlights on the map and all information for evening outings -
7. Parking signs that say North Side of the Street Only (add – parking tickets \$50 and will be issued for illegal parking)-
8. Harrison Street entrance to the beach should have painted parking lines for vehicles and painted no parking on the street in the center. Allow both sides for parking adjacent to the steps.
9. Bike Racks on Harrison and Larch and Second

10. **No Traffic Circles** – Traffic Circles create more congestion, stop all walkers and are expensive and *traffic can be controlled as need by traffic person during high traffic hours on the weekends*. Why have traffic circles for approximately 16 weekends a year when a traffic person can effectively keep traffic moving.
11. **No paving** of current gravel/soil streets. Protect from toxic run-off and allows absorption. As stated in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Gravel Roads Maintenance Design Manual, well-maintained dirt and gravel roads can cost less to construct and maintain, and **are better for the environment**.
12. **No sidewalks**. I would ask everyone to walk out to the edge of their property and measure 48 inches to see how much of their gardens, off street parking, fences, etc. We do not need sidewalks in a village.
13. **No new parking**. Put the electronic sign once the town appears full and say something welcoming as - “ Sorry! Cannon Beach is out of parking. Please return another day, earlier!” Cities across the world are limiting visitors for two reasons – protect the town, residents, and visitors from very unpleasant overcrowding and protecting the environment...- and increasing desire to get there earlier next time to see what they missed. Every venue from Oswald Park to Disneyland and concerts – people get turned away. We can never accommodate everyone, and we should not try and compromise the experienced.
14. Ocean between Harrison and 1st Street need more receptacles. There is one at Harrison and one at Jackson and the bench and one at the top of first street. There should be a minimum of 5 more. I walk to post office along their daily. I pick up tons of trash in the dune grass and the hedges toward Taft and Washington. People have no where to place their trash.
15. Trash Bags should be given out at the Chamber for people to place their trash ...there could be great art and messages on the bags and a map of all the receptacles – warning about Elk – sneaker waves, etc...Message Trash Sacks.
16. The Seaside Trolley Bus is not used effectively. In Jacksonville, Oregon the driver has a microphone and gives information as people are driven through town. When people get off the driver reminds them the trolley will be back at that stop in (whatever time) and will be going to (the farthest distance) and returning to (where the Trolley starts). Their trolley is always full.
17. The county land where Hwy. 26 and 101 north come together it would be great to have a Seaside/Cannon Beach Parking Lot – serviced by two or three electric buses going to and from Seaside and Cannon Beach. A choice of tickets for a family-or each, for going both places, for one town only. All tickets are round trip. This would be an advantage for both places and solve some of the parking issues. The lot could have a designated place for motor homes/trailers and keep them from clogging both places. Tickets would be priced to offset operations.

18. We need more Uber or Lift type of services for seniors and for people who do not want to drive to Astoria or Manzanita and want to leave their car at their hotel so they don't have miss the view when driving, won't have worry about parking and rates could be fixed and advertised.

Thank you for your time to read my suggestions and consider their merit.

Lolly Champion