
Public Hearing TSP Plan: Record Number 217-25-000289-PLNG

From Leean <porterleean@yahoo.com>

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To Plan <plan@crookcountyor.gov>

I'm writing to raise concerns about the Transportation System Plan (TSP) expansion and the proposed road development that is scheduled to be presented to the County Board of Commissioners on September 24th 2025.

I would like this letter to be added into public record at this meeting.

At the recent public meeting held at Carey Foster Hall, it was mentioned that a previous survey showed approximately 80% of respondents preferred an expansion to be four lanes of the existing road, being Juniper Canyon Road. Despite this, the County now appears to be moving forward with a new road connecting Highway 27 to Lower Davis Loop, an option that was neither supported by the public nor presented transparently in recent discussions.

This proposed road was initially introduced years ago under the justification of creating a second emergency exit for fire safety. However, many community members, myself included, expressed that it would not serve as an effective fire evacuation route. The most logical fire exit would be located higher up Juniper Canyon.

There is growing concern that this road primarily benefits private interests, particularly the Kennedy family, by increasing accessibility to their subdivision and potentially boosting the value and marketability of their lots. It appears that the road may enter or border a gated community, raising further questions about how it benefits the broader public. I am confused about why the County is now framing this road as a necessary part of the TSP expansion simply because Mr. Kennedy donated land. If this road wasn't supported by the original survey or the community, why is it now being fast tracked? What changed and why was the community not informed or given a chance to weigh in again?

Additional concerns include:

- **Increased traffic congestion** on Main, Lynn, and 3rd. Especially during peak times such as rodeo events, horse races, the county fair, school hours, church services, sporting events and various other events that take place at the fairgrounds or at Les Schwab fields and amphitheater.
- **Safety risks** due to the steep grade of the proposed road (reportedly 11-12%), particularly during winter months. Who will be responsible for maintenance?
- **Lack of transparency** around the County's decision making process and potential conflicts of interest.

At the last meeting, the community's focus was largely on fire safety and the Highland fire, not on a road that seems to serve a narrow set of interests. This situation raises many red flags about transparency, accountability, and whether the public's voice is truly being considered.

I believe this issue deserves further investigation. The community deserves honest answers and full transparency. As a concerned resident, I deeply appreciate the work of those who strive to bring these matters to light and ensure that our local government remains accountable to the people it serves.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Leean Porter

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