



Treekeepers of Washington County
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To: King City Council
Cc: Mike Weston, King City Manager
Glenn Hamburg, Metro Assoc. Regional Planner

Re: Ordinance No. 2023-01, Proposed TSP
Date: 14 June 2023

Treekeepers of Washington County is a volunteer group with a mission to protect existing trees in Washington County for the many environmental, social and economic benefits they deliver to residents and communities. We engage in education and advocacy with the community and legislators to promote the care and protection of trees. We urge the Council to modify the proposed Transportation Systems Plan recommendation to select an alternative route from extension of Fischer Rd to an alternate option as recommended by Janet Black Testimony of 09 May 2023.

The last Special Session of your Council received 479 pages of comments from environmental organizations and individuals plus an additional submission of 13 pages. Clearly, there is a great deal of opposition to the proposed Fischer Road extension from experts in their fields. There is a viable alternative route and these many responders are consistent in recommending such an alternative.

Trees and Significant Natural Resources provide incredible benefits not only to wildlife but also to the human life in the extended area. Metro and several other agencies have invested taxpayer dollars to rebuild this habitat corridor for the benefit of the region. Any bisecting of this area creates barriers to connectivity and intrudes on the habitat.

New York City and several other populous areas have documented that mature trees are 70+ times as beneficial to the environment than saplings. Removing mature trees with the intent of mitigating with saplings is not equitable. Tree shade cools streams to allow for better living conditions for amphibians and fish. Trees and other significant natural vegetation filter the water and reduce the sediment going into the streams. Trees perform carbon sequestration and thus provide climate defense for the general areas nearby. Evapotranspiration, the process by which water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere by evaporation from the soil and other surfaces, cools the entire neighborhood. Roads create more impervious surfaces and increase the ambient temperatures which we cannot afford with the current climate change conditions.

With all these factors being presented to the Council, it is a good fiscal and environmentally-responsible decision to select the viable alternative route which also affords greater housing development.

Thank you for your consideration,

Fran Warren

Fran Warren On behalf of Treekeepers of Washington County