

To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Proposed street changes in Fairhaven

arabellastore

Dear Mr. Comeau, I am the owner of a retail sto...

03/12/2012 02:00:41 PM

From: arabellastore@comcast.net
To: ccomeau@cob.org
Date: 03/12/2012 02:00 PM
Subject: Proposed street changes in Fairhaven

Dear Mr. Comeau,

I am the owner of a retail store in Fairhaven called Arabella. I am writing today to express my concern over a proposal brought by members of the Transportation Advisory Board to limit street/parking access in Fairhaven. There shouldn't be anyone associated with city government/transportation departments who is unfamiliar with the critical shortage of parking in the Fairhaven District. Lack of available parking has been a constant complaint of customers for the eight years I have been in business on 11th Street. They vent frequently as though I have any control over the issue. As a business without alley access, I am regularly lugging heavy boxes of merchandise and supplies for my business from a block or more away. This reality doesn't seem to garner the attention from the city as parking issues in the downtown area have. Envisioning a charming pedestrian mall with little shops, galleries and cafes is understandable. It's a nice image in the mind's eye. The reality is that attempting to retro-develop such a plan in Fairhaven would be the nails in the coffin to our already struggling small businesses.

I am personally familiar with locations across the country where such changes to street access were the sole reason for businesses to fail. A pedestrian mall is most desirable for customers and businesses when the concept is either well planned as a new project, or when there is more than adequate adjacent parking and handicapped access immediately surrounding the pedestrian only area.

I see no benefit to customers nor businesses by bring forward such changes in Fairhaven. And moreover, where is the plan and the funding for offsetting the loss of street parking and the major improvements required for such plans?

At a time when small business are struggling more than ever and when the future for small shops and restaurants is so uncertain, no persons should be pushing lofty plans that create even more peril for those of us on the precipice.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would appreciate your forwarding this email to the members of the Transportation Advisory Board.

Very truly,

Susan Bayer
Arabella
1306 11th Street

Bellingham, WA 98225
360-752-0355