

To:
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Transportation Mailin - Fairhaven and Parking District(s)

Dear Commissioner McCabe, Mayor Linville, Directors Carlson and Thomas, and Staff:

I would like to make some comments about the Fairhaven Neighborhood and Urban Village Plan and the Transportation and Parking elements. But first, I would like to set the record straight about allegations made by Mr. Servais on March 2, 2012 in an email to the Chairman of the Transportation Commission Jim McCabe, and cc'd to Mayor Linville, Planning Director Jeff Thomas, Public Works Director Ted Carlson, and others.

I would like everyone concerned to know that Mr Servais' suppositions stated as "I have reason to believe" that members of the Transportation Commission worked with me (Vince Biciunas) and perhaps others to write up the TC draft proposal as a "breach of public process" is totally untrue and an unfortunate projection. I did not work with anyone on that document and did not know of its existence until I saw it posted on cob.org. There is no "illegal document that has been hidden from the public." I found that draft on the cob.org website the day before the meeting in the Public Comments section. (And did wonder at the location for it.)

Because Mr. Servais also says "I welcome any corrections of fact contained in this email" I would also like to add that neither Fairhaven Neighbors nor myself have retained any legal services. This again is Mr. Servais making an assumption, merely because Mr. Bode was sitting in a chair next to me. Mr. Bode was in attendance at the TC meeting retained by Mr. Carlsen, an interested party and stakeholder in Fairhaven as a property and business owner. For full disclosure, I can add that Mr. Carlsen is also a member of the board of Fairhaven Neighbors, but again, there is no legal services connection between the neighborhood association and Mr. Bode or any other attorney. Mr. Carlsen is, of course, free to do what he considers appropriate.

Here is the meat of the matter:

a "parking plan" exists for Fairhaven, together with a Parking District, and both are plainly inadequate to fulfill the existing parking demand. Indeed, they have no capacity to address future demand. Even though I only saw and heard at the last TC meeting a benign proposal (Recommendation #11) to explore "best locations for pedestrian-only streets," that issue now seems exaggerated. Truly, how could a hotel business operate without vehicle access, as just one example. The important thing to recognize is that not one single on-street parking space is expendable for merchants, most of whom are tenants, because some Fairhaven landlords rely on the substandard on-street supply to provide all parking for the Parking District, or else the off street lots which are themselves ripe for development.

Therefore, I ask, what about TC discussion of the Parking District? City documents that outline parking plans and the establishment of the Parking District, as well as comments and suggestions, have been submitted more than a week ago by Mr. Carlsen. They have yet to be

posted on the cob.org Public Comments link. Those documents indicate that substantial off-street parking is needed within or adjacent to the Parking District boundary to provide even minimal parking. Parking scarcity in Fairhaven is exacerbated by the special privileges accorded members of the Parking District, and the diagonal parking solutions of the 90's don't necessarily solve today's problems for easy, safe bus and bicycle access, and parking for larger than compact-sized vehicles. Is there a possible way the Parking District could become part of the solution now? We could use some creative ideas here. This is a much more salient topic for discussion, I believe, than the distracting suggestion of pedestrian-only streets.

I do not have the answers to these questions, and I trust that the professionals in Public Works, Planning and the Transportation Commission can and will take this on.

Thank you for all the work completed to date. I know it is a huge and complicated undertaking. I hope we can go forward with a more realistic understanding for all the players, and continue to assume the best of each other.

Yours truly,
Vince Biciunas, President
Fairhaven Neighbors