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RE: Comments Proposed Draft Central City Plan, Green Loop

The Green Loop concept has my support with its goals to:

- Improve Health
- Connect and Create Parks
- Support Businesses
- Increase Walking Paths
- Encourage Riding
- Grow and Build Green

However, I write today as I believe the current plan doesn't go far enough. My concerns are primarily twofold: connectivity to existing resources and funding.

Connectivity: To achieve the goals of connecting parks, increasing walking and riding the plan must explicitly address connectivity to existing trail networks, including but not limited to: the Greenway Trail and Springwater on the Willamette. The Green Loop, while focused on providing connectivity between business districts within the loop, can not exist in a vacuum. It must consider how active transportation users enter and exit the loop using other trail systems. While I trust that the planners involved in this process understand this, I don't think that's enough. Highlighting, within the plan, critical nodes where the Green Loop enhances connectivity to existing trails is imperative.. Ideally, that includes, text and map depictions identifying those nodes, as well as code that directs planners to include those nodes in the development phase of this plan. I request that the importance of connectivity with existing trail resources be detailed explicitly in the plan, and, if possible, highlighting specific connections to the Greenway Trail and Springwater Trail.

Funding:

I know you know, both short term and long term funding strategies need to be identified and pursued. As one whose office overlooks the Springwater Corridor Trailhead, I see first hand how lack of sufficient support limits and eventually degrades the potential of a regional trail resource. Funding for proper way-finding signs, user facilities (water, toilets), and long term maintenance, will be critical to the success of the Green Loop. While I see daily in observing Springwater Trail that the if-you-build-it-they-will-come approach does work, I also see how it can create problems if sufficient long-term funding is lacking. I request that City Counsel and the implementing city bureaus commit sufficient funding to support the long-term success of this project.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Barb Grover, owner
Splendid Cycles