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August 26, 2020

Ms. Sarah Kimsey

Sammamish, WA

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Kimsey:

I was made aware of your August 23rd entry in your blog, “I Love Sammamish,” where you reprinted an email from a Transportation Planner on my team, Doug McIntyre. Both Doug and I are were very surprised to learn how his email to you was used and promoted in your blog.

Doug was replying to you as a resident, as my team routinely does. He was referring to the Traffic Model Audit Report that Mr. Salemann presented at a City Council Special Meeting on July 14 which you asked about. That report given was an audit, it wasn’t a traffic modeling exercise.

However, I can confirm that Sammamish’s traffic modeling data under previous administrations has been manipulated in the past in favor of development. This has all been clearly documented through discovery and analysis. I am writing you now to set the record straight and give you the facts, which I expect you will use to correct your blog post.

We can indeed confirm that in the past the process of issuing concurrency certificates was highly suspect and controversial as to how the absence of any city financing was calculated.

For example, in August of 2019, it was revealed that staff included unfunded traffic improvement projects in the concurrency approval process. Specifically, an unfunded and unapproved \$54 million widening project on Sahalee Way enabled the issuance of a concurrency certificate for Town Center Phase 1, unbeknownst and contrary to the City Council’s policy.

It is possible that other development projects were approved over the years in a similar manner. Unfortunately, legally there is nothing current management can do about the past, except ensure it won't happen again.

Another example: In 2017, the City selectively used old traffic counts and ignored AM traffic. The data on this was presented by Mr. Salemann to City Council. Now, traffic model calculations and assumptions have been updated due to the aforementioned Traffic Audit in question. Thus, some of the analysis and decisions of the past appear to be affecting development today. Implementation of the findings of the traffic audit into an updated citywide traffic model will contribute to a better understanding of future potential traffic impacts and afford us the opportunity to be a lot more transparent to the public.

I am also copying Miki Mullor of the Sammamish Comment, as you have referenced him and his work in your blog post.

Should you have any further questions, please direct them to me.

Thank you,



Jeff Elekes
Public Works Director
City of Sammamish

Cc: Dave Rudat, City Manager
Lisa Marshall, City Attorney
Doug McIntyre, Traffic Planner
Miki Mullor, Editor, Sammamish Comment