

**From:** Marianne Fellner  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** House Bill 2027: I'm pro bridge because of traffic impact  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2017 10:00:06 AM

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Please construct the proposed footbridge south of Bend.

I attended an info-meeting at Pine Elementary School on February 23, 2017 hosted by the Oregon Parks and Recreation District. I would like to comment on the current State Scenic Waterway rules in the 1 mile stretch of the Upper Deschutes River from the Bend Urban Growth Boundary to the COID diversion.

The 1 mile section in question is within the Urban Growth Boundary on the south side of Bend, an area that has been targeted to be developed immediately. This area is also the subject of a lot of traffic studies and road improvements. Recent studies show that the area around Reed Market Rd, from 27th to the Healy Bridge, are already at capacity. Traffic crawls around the roundabout linking Brookwood to Bond street. Traffic backs up daily in every direction. The new residents will be flooding these same roads on their way to Bend, Redmond, Sisters and the vast recreational areas west of Bend.

I know this because I have the good fortune to live overlooking Reed Market and have a vista overlooking the river corridor. I take in everything from migrating deer, hunting raptors, river trail walkers and a constant stream of traffic that divides the residential neighborhood with the Deschutes River. This is a magnificently scenic area of the river, abounding with wildlife, people, dogs, bikes, boats, floaters and traffic. It is a well used park with a handsome new pedestrian bridge, from which people view hunting bald eagle and osprey, muskrat swimming in the water and abundant bird life that flock to the river and it's banks. This scenic stretch of river is thriving along with the thoughtful integration of trails and bridges.

Responsible urban growth includes connectivity as a core value. Bend seeks to find ways to reduce and distribute traffic throughout the region by creating bike and pedestrian trails and corridors. I ask that you consider changing the rules that prevent a pedestrian bridge across a river when the area in question is within an Urban Growth Boundary. I question the value of preservation at the expense of our community goals. Bend aspires to reduce dependency on motor vehicles and provide connected bike and pedestrian paths.

Take into consideration the number of cars that could be taken off of the roads daily by simply giving people the choice to walk or ride to the west side trails from home. It is over 5 miles from Elk Meadow Elementary School to Alpine Park on the west side, or a short walk.

There was a large turnout at the meeting I attended. People wanted to talk about the question of a bridge. People were passionate both pro and con. It was a topic that could not be set aside, and I believe should not be set aside.

Please consider allowing construction of a bike and pedestrian bridge to create a southern crossing of the Deschutes River south of Bend. Our roads and roundabouts have already reached capacity. Please don't add more cars to the problem by forcing south side hikers and bikers to drive to the west side. This is Bend!

Sincerely,

Marianne Fellner  
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