

Tenney Matthew

From: bob <remmitb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 12:14 PM
To: HAGNR Exhibits
Subject: HB 4029
Attachments: Attachment in favor of Pedestrian Bridge over Deschutes River - R Timmer 2-7-2018.pdf

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February 7, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources
Representative Brian Clem, Chair
[900 Court Street, NE](#)
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and members of the Committee:

I have been a resident of Bend for over 9 years and a visitor to the area for more than 20 years. It was the year-round access to the outdoors for hiking and skiing, that resulted in my decision to move here. The urban, desert and forest trails are such a rich local resource. I hike or snowshoe them regularly and will hike a urban trail this afternoon, following lunch.

I have followed Bend parks & Recreation's proposal to link the river trail with the Forest Service trails in the southern part of town and wrote in opposition to HB 2027 last May on the same subject.

I strongly support a pedestrian bridge over the Deschutes river at the proposed location to enable individuals on the eastside to walk or bike to the National Forest on the west side of the river to enjoy the trails that already exist. The alternative for these folks is a 5+ mile drive to "Good Dog" park, or further, as shown by the dark red line on page 1 of the exhibit. Or letting folks from Widgi Creek walk or bike to shopping on the east side, rather than driving. Is the impact to deer and elk greater with increased vehicle traffic or with foot and bike traffic? Much of that route is already crowded, and further, why do we wish to favor proposals that require more driving. Isn't Oregon trying to reduce CO2 emissions?

Page 2 of the attachment shows a screen capture from the Strava website for the same area as in page 1, Lines varying from red to yellow to white show the increasing use of trails and roads by runners, riders, and others. Note the abundance of activity pathways on the west side of the river. Note also the gap in activity just east of the proposed bridge location - a gap caused by restricted access due to private land. Bend suffers from limited east-to west access via safe pedestrian ways; the proposed bridge could help reduce the divide!

Page 3 provides a closeup of the Strava activity heat map in the area of the proposed pedestrian bridge. Note how the proposed bridge location links to the established trail usage on the west side of the river. It is not like that area is "some pristine wilderness". The blue dotted line is the location of the fence line, some of which has electric shock wire, along the western edge of Bachelor View subdivision.

I look at the area around the proposed bridge and say; this isn't wilderness; it is very urban with thousands of homes within a few mile radius on the east side and a very active trail system on the west side. It would be most unfortunate to continue requiring "east-siders" to drive to the trailheads; creating increased congestion on Reed market. Is a bridge really going to change the character of the river? I don't believe so.

Sincerely,

Robert Timmer
Bend, Oregon