

Hello,

We respectfully submit this email in lieu of public comment at the June 18th meeting in Tillamook as we will be out of town.

My husband and I anticipate that the Salmonberry Trail will play a critical role in our rural region by expanding our safe transportation options. Currently, unless we are walking in our small town, we must jump in the car to go anywhere in our area, and we would love to have options. When driving, we observe hikers and bikers using the small, relatively undefined shoulders of HWY 101, where visibility and weather can wreak havoc, and think "whoa, that is insane!". However, we would love to be able to safely transit to neighboring communities without having to use the car. The Salmonberry Trail would provide serious alternative transportation options. It is our opinion that a trail such as this would contribute to economic development because others seek out alternative experiences like this. The fact that so many people currently bike on HWY101 tells you there is a "market" for biking transportation options in our area.

Additionally, it is our understanding that there is currently some consideration of a spur off the Salmonberry Trail from Wheeler, through Nehalem to Manzanita. Again, that would tie our communities together and provide alternatives to travel by car. I can see myself biking to these other communities to workout at the North County Recreation District, attend the Manzanita Farmers Market and participate in stewardship activities at Lower Nehalem Community Trust.

Please consider trails to be integral to a comprehensive plan for Oregon transportation. Limiting ourselves to travel by automobile is extremely old fashioned. We need access to alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.
Craig and Sheila Berry