

Hello,

I recently attended the Joint Committee on Transportation roundtable and public hearing in Hermiston. Thank you for coming to Hermiston.

I appreciate being able to listen in to the conversations that were had at the round table and then at the public hearing.

I am a longtime resident, business owner, and land owner in Hermiston, so I care about my town and how it develops.

I have been recently reading Hermiston's TSP and have been concerned about the direction that the city of Hermiston is planning on expanding their roads.

I attend city council meetings fairly regularly and understand that just about every entity is strapped for money. I am observing that most of the city's expansion of growth is to the North out HWY 395. Hermiston is building out that area, three new auto dealerships, large fueling station, and several businesses. Some time ago I sat on a county committee called HWY395 and we did some work on transportation in the North part of 395 that connects Hermiston Punkin Center to Hwy 730. What concerns me is there are no developed side streets to move traffic around that area or any way to safely get truck traffic onto 395 from roads like Oldfield and Bagget. This is an area that we need to build some traffic control, whether it be traffic circle or stop light. To my knowledge there is no work currently on this issue.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is that there are only two ways to connect to I82 between Punkin center to 730. You either have to drive South into town to Elm or North to 730 to get connected to I82. If for some reason there is an emergency and evacuation needs to happen, this could cause some pretty good traffic issues. I already know that that part of HWY 395 has several wrecks on it and needs some attention. My business is on N. Hwy 395 and we witness EMS | Police daily if not more.

I have spoken with our Fire Chief Scott Stanton about which direction most of the calls are going, and he told me towards the North.

With that said, I do know that the city of Hermiston is building several roads for Amazon, Pioneer Seed and other large buildings that are going up in the far South area of the Hermiston UGB. There are currently no plans to develop Feedville or 1st Street that will be getting the bulk of the traffic from the Amazon, Walmart and Pioneer Seed traffic. The current TSP has the city of Hermiston building a new road through a pasture and farm ground that has no development on it. They want to connect to HWY395 and signalize at Port with a stop at the bottom of the hill. This makes no sense and it is not necessary. This road project will be fought by several neighbors in that area and it currently has stalled. I imagine that the city will reach out to ODOT for funds for this project. I would like to think that ODOT will not fund projects that take property to build roads that are not necessary.

I hope that ODOT will fund transportation that helps move traffic around the city and county for many years to come, and looking at the growth of the city, that would need to be

in the North and developing a way to cross over the Umatilla River to I84 & towards the South on Feedville in Hermiston.

I appreciate your time, thank you.

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