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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

**MINUTES
CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 27, 2009**

CPZ2009-00018 NE 18th Street Extension - The cities of Camas and Vancouver have requested that the County amend the Arterial Atlas to include an extension of NE 18th Street from NE 192nd Avenue east to Goodwin Road as a principal arterial. Reclassification of NE 18th Street and NE 192nd Avenue to principal arterials at the NE corner of Section 30 has been requested by the City of Vancouver to be consistent with their revised sub-area plan for Section 30. Re-classification of some existing segments of Goodwin Road and NE 28th Street to principal arterials and the extension of NE 242nd Ave from NE 28th Street to NE 14th Street as a minor arterial street has also been requested by Camas to be consistent with the city's capital facilities plan.

Department: Community Planning
Staff Contact: Mike Mabrey

Staff Summary:

Mr. Mabrey presented the staff report. He said you have to balance the environmental policies of the comprehensive plan versus the transportation policies and that staff was recommending denial. Also, the Planning Commission voted 4-1 to deny the request. Subsequently they received a joint letter from the cities of Vancouver and Camas requesting that the board direct staff to perform a more detailed alignment study that would attempt to resolve some of the conflicts between the transportation issues and the environmental issues. In addition, they received an email from Karin and Randy Nosrati that makes the argument that a NE 13th Street widening to a principal arterial would not be practical or safe. Mabrey presented maps outlining the area.

Commissioner Boldt stated that he didn't want to spend money for a study when they don't have it.

Comments from the public:

1) Russell Wagner, 19910 NE 16th Street, Camas, felt that a determination of nonsignificance was not proper and he thought at least an environmental consultation would be in order for this type of process. Also, Mr. Wagner referenced an area on the map that is a 100-year floodplain, as well as one of the largest Camas Lily fields in Clark County, which he would hate to see destroyed. He added that staffs response points out that the environmental mitigation costs to construct a roadway in that location would likely be exorbitant.

2) Ted Labbe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2108 Grand Boulevard, Vancouver, presented a map. Mr. Labbe explained that the area has connections to the upland forests of Green Mountain over to Burnt Bridge Creek and down to Lacamas Creek. He said they were pleased with the Planning Commission's recommendation and wanted to support and work with staff in determining a proper alignment for NE 18th Street.

3) Gretchen Starke, 308 NE 124th Avenue, Conservation Chair, Vancouver Audubon Society, expressed support of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's position. She referenced a premier birder in the area who is familiar with the area and who had concerns about the road extension through oak habitat. She also expressed appreciation to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

Discussion: The Chair asked the board if they had any additional comments and/or a motion. Commissioner Stuart said he liked the idea of having an alignment study, but did not like the idea of their limited county staff doing it. He said this was a connection between the City of Vancouver and the City of Camas and those areas would not be open for urban development unless annexed by the City of Vancouver or Camas. His request was that they send a letter to the cities suggesting the cities work together on an alignment study and look into the feasibility of alignment, given the environmental constraints in the area.

Commissioner Boldt said he would be in favor of denying the request and letting the Cities of Vancouver and Camas work on it.

Commissioner Mielke also agreed that the cities could work it out.

ACTION: Moved by Stuart to DENY CPZ2009-00018 NE 18th Street Extension, and send a letter to the City of Vancouver and the City of Camas in regards to working on the alignment study. Commissioners Boldt, Stuart, and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.