

Elk Ridge City

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City Council Members,

I wanted to write a quick note concerning the recommendation from the city planning commission to remove the remainder of Hillside Drive from the general plan. I feel that this section of road should be left in the general plan and should be connected to Elk Ridge Drive. I know that the concerns brought up by citizens during the planning meeting were grades, speed, and higher traffic volume. I know that the grades along this proposed section are on the steeper side of what we would like. However, we have roads in several areas of town that are at the same grades that are proposed for this section of road. I went around with Barry from Cole Surveying last week and shot some grades around town. Hillside Drive from Mahogany south to Alexander is 10.1%. High Sierra averaged 11% throughout. Cortez Averaged 9% throughout. This gives you some roads to think about when you hear the proposed grades. I understand that we live in a mountain community and because of that some roads will have higher grades. These roads that I referenced are some of the steepest in town and I would like to point out that we are able to plow and maintain them in the winter just fine.

I also understand that there is a risk of increased speed along this section and there are some things that can be done to help with this issue, but mainly that would be an enforcement issue. Speed tables on slopes this great would not be very effective and probably be more of a hazard. There will be an increase in volume on the road west of Mahogany. However, the traffic above Mahogany would essentially be the same as it currently is, until further development in the south end of town. This increase in traffic volume would only effect the five houses west of Mahogany.

I feel that this continuation of Hillside to Elk Ridge Drive is critical for the future development of south Elk Ridge. I understand that the argument will be made that once Salem Hills Drive is connected through that the traffic could go over to Elk Ridge Drive on that road. I feel that even when this happens, we need the option to continue down Hillside Drive in the event of a natural disaster or emergency situation. If you look at the transportation map in the general plan that includes this connection, it still only gives us three ways off of the mountain in south Elk Ridge. Those ways are Canyon View Drive, Hillside (although it doesn't connect directly, and you have to weave through the neighborhoods), and Elk Ridge Drive. I feel that the benefits to this road remaining on the transportation plan and connecting to Elk Ridge Drive far outweigh the risks. We need to look at the bigger picture and future of Elk Ridge. Thanks for taking the time to read through this and feel free to call me with any questions. Thanks

Cody Black
Elk Ridge City
Public Works Director