Debbie,

In the document that the City provided me, entitled, “Talking Points regarding traffic counts,” it states the following regarding Richmond Beach Drive:

"4000 is not a set cap on the roadway. It is the subarea cap for an unmitigated roadway. LOS is the only way to specify a clear maximum.” (emphasis in original)

Wrong, wrong, and wrong.

I. The first wrong

It is incorrect to say that "4000 is not a set cap on the roadway.” Staff has repeatedly made this false statement. It is not what the Subarea Plan says. It is misleading or worse to advise Councilmembers, Snohomish County, the public, or anyone else, that "4000 is not a set cap on the roadway.”

Here is what Policy PW-12 of the Subarea Plan says about the 4,000 ADT limit for Richmond Beach Drive (City Council amended the Subarea Pan in 2011, adding this text):

"In view of the fact that Richmond Beach Drive between NW 199th St. and NW 205th St. is a local road with no opportunities for alternative access to dozens of homes in Shoreline and Woodway, the City designates this as a local street with a maximum capacity of 4,000 vehicle trips per day. Unless and until 1) Snohomish County and/or the owner of the Point Wells Urban Center can provide to the City the Transportation Corridor Study and Mitigation Plan called for in Policy PW-9, and 2) sources of financing for necessary mitigation are committed, the City should not consider reclassifying this road segment."

We respectfully ask that Staff please stop misleading City Councilmembers, Snohomish County, the public, and others by repeatedly saying that "4000 is not a set cap on the roadway.” As is evident from Policy PW-12, 4,000 ADTs is a set cap on the roadway.

Please note that when Staff makes such a statement, it is violating the mandate in Resolution 377 (adopted last year by the City Council), which provides in part that:

"Until such time as policy PW-12 of the Point Wells Subarea Plan is repealed or amended by the City Council, the City shall not take any action or enter into any agreement, arrangement, or understanding that is inconsistent with the 4,000 vehicle trips per day limit set out in PW-12 and the City shall advocate positions consistent with T-39, T-44, PW-9 and PW-12 during the environmental review or permitting process for the proposed Point Wells development.” (emphasis added)

II. The second wrong
After incorrectly stating that, "4000 is not a set cap on the roadway,” the talking Points continue to mislead by saying that 4000 "is the subarea cap for an unmitigated roadway.” Nowhere does the Subarea Plan say that. While PW-12 of the Subarea Plan says that the City should not consider reclassifying Richmond Beach Drive, unless and until a Transportation Corridor Study and Mitigation Plan are provided along with funding for necessary mitigation, PW-12 does not say anywhere that 4,000 ADTs "is the subarea cap for an unmitigated roadway.” Nor does PW-12 obligate the City to revise, or even consider revising, the 4,000 ADT limit for Richmond Beach Drive.

But, for argument's sake, what if 4,000 ADTs was the subarea cap for an unmitigated Richmond Beach Drive? Then what would be the cap if the roadway was mitigated? The City has previously stated to the public, BSRE, and Snohomish County, that the current capacity per lane for Richmond Beach Drive is 600 peak hour trips. And the City has previously stated that if the roadway was mitigated, the capacity per lane would rise to 700 peak hour trips, a 16.7% increase. So, if 4,000 ADTs were assumed to be the subarea cap for an unmitigated Richmond Beach Drive, then the cap for a mitigated roadway would be no more than 4,668 ADTs (= 4,000 X 1.0167).

III. The third wrong

The statement that "LOS is the only way to specify a clear maximum” is patently absurd. A hard-cap limit, such as the 4,000 ADT limit that the City Council adopted in 2011, is the clearest limit there is. The limit for Richmond Beach Drive is 4,000 average daily trips. Nothing can be clearer.

Debbie, could you please direct Staff to refrain from taking any action that is inconsistent with the 4,000 vehicle trips per day limit set out in Policy PW-12, and from making any statements that are inconsistent with the 4,000 vehicle trips per day limit, such as the statement that "4000 is not a set cap on the roadway.” See Resolution 377, which also provides that the 4,000 ADT limit is the limit that the City must advocate in its dealing with Snohomish County during the current environmental review and permitting process for the proposed Point Wells development.

Thank you.

Tom McCormick