

From: [Sonja Wiser](#)
To: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Jenna Kay](#); elbert.felicia@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Comprehensive Plan Update Comments
Date: Monday, May 20, 2024 6:52:27 AM

Good morning Felicia; thank you for your comments related to priorities for the future of Clark County. Your comments will be forwarded to staff and added to the Index of Record.

From: Clark County <webteam@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 4:12 PM
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Comprehensive Plan Update Comments

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Submitted on Fri, 05/17/2024 - 4:12 PM

First Name

Felicia

Last Name

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Email Address

elbert.felicia@gmail.com

Address

Vancouver, Washington. 98661

Message Subject

Priorities for the future of Clark County

Comments

Hi, I'm writing in support of future plans to Vancouver that prioritize environmentalism, accessibility, and equity. Protected bike lanes, increased multi-family homes, and development along the lines of "15 minute cities" for all residents regardless of income level or physical ability are huge priorities for me. As someone who does not and will not drive due to health issues, having reliable, rapid public transit is hugely important to me. (I have also heard that CTRAN has major issues with driver retention due to long shifts - hopefully, this can be addressed to improve our transit.)

Currently, the bus system is not nearly robust enough to justify using for many people. The infrequency of

buses, paired with lack of seating/shelter at bus stops, makes it prohibitive to people who need to transfer between routes (getting from Minnehaha to Salmon Creek for a meeting took me about 2 hours recently) and for people who cannot stand for long periods of time. On very hot days or on rainy days, the lack of shelter makes it a no-go completely. Fixing bus stops and schedules is the most major change I would like to see.

It's also important to me that whatever changes are made are done with the environment in mind. I moved to Vancouver because it's a beautiful place full of nature. My ideal future Vancouver is one where greenspace is increased, or at the very least, not reduced more than it *has* to be. Local plants do a lot to provide shade, noise suppression, beauty, ecological well-being, and an overall feeling that Vancouver is doing the right thing.

As someone who lives with chronic fatigue and pain, I would also love to see the city be more pedestrian-friendly in general. Having more public seating would be amazing. On long walks, there is usually nowhere to rest except for on curbs. I know that I'm not alone, and that plenty of others would be more ready to go out and engage in public life - working, shopping, volunteering, socializing - if it were easier.

Obviously, there is a theme of prioritizing alternative transit here. While I want the roads to be smooth and quick for anyone who does need to drive, for EMS vehicles, for delivery drivers and truckers, etc., I think Vancouver needs to cut back on how much of its space is being used for cars. Auto malls, dealerships, and parking lots take up ENORMOUS amounts of our land, and encouraging *more* personal vehicle purchasing is a bad idea - both for the environment, and for the goal of having our roads be navigable. There are already so many lanes on roads that crossing the street often feels TERRIFYING. If the city becomes more walkable and accessible via public transit, then far more people will get where they need to go faster without having to expand any more roads.

Finally - and this one is less directly relevant to land use, but related to Clark County's population growth - a major issue here is a lack of access to healthcare. No matter what kind of doctor I want to see, the wait is usually months - if I can find a doctor who takes my insurance at all. It usually takes a full work day of phone calls to find a single provider taking new Apple Health patients. If our population is going to keep ballooning, we have to find ways to make healthcare more accessible. It's beyond me to figure out how we could possibly incentivize more doctors to live or practice in the area, but it's a huge detriment to the overall health (and finances) of the population. Aside from the lack of access to routine care, it's also my understanding that there is a lack of county-funded EMS. Ambulance rides are prohibitively expensive, which can also be a hurdle to public health.

An example of how detrimental this is: a loved one has a bad heart. He couldn't get an appointment with a cardiologist for months. When he did get an appointment, he was told he needed surgery, which was scheduled months out. When he arrived for the surgery, the surgeon had an emergency and it had to be rescheduled another month. By the time the loved one was slated for his surgery, his heart condition had deteriorated enough that it was no longer an option, and a more invasive and expensive surgery was required. He had a dozen other health problems that surfaced while waiting to be seen as a result of his heart. When he needed an ambulance, he was saddled with MORE bills. This man was basically bankrupted because of a lack of access to healthcare.

If nothing changes, then this story is going to get more and more common, and many Clark County residents are going to be penniless, homeless, dying because of inaction. The projected level of growth scares me knowing that there is little that can be done to change this. I don't know how much zoning laws can help, but in my opinion, any vector for improvement here is one that should be considered. If this comment is applicable outside of the comprehensive plan, I hope that it can be taken into consideration wherever possible.

Thank you so much for your time reading this letter. While I know some of this is outside of the scope of the

Comprehensive Plan, I hope this perspective from a resident helps with planning for the future of our County. I would also love to be kept informed about the project and future initiatives for Clark County in general.

- Felicia

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