

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: [Danielle Jokela](#)
Cc: [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#); [Jenna Kay](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Jose Alvarez](#)
Subject: RE: environmental impact statement: my comments
Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 3:23:51 PM

Good day, Danielle,

Thank you for your comments regarding the 2025 EIS Update. I have forwarded them to staff, and will add these to the Index of Record.

From: Danielle Jokela <danielle.jokela@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 2:25 PM
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: environmental impact statement: my comments

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Hi there. I was told I could submit comments regarding Clark County's Environmental Impact Statement by sending an email here.

We have tremendous opportunity in Clark County to develop the region in a way that supports economic growth, population growth, and human needs, while protecting the unique and spectacular natural environment we have the privilege to live in.

It's important to me that we ensure our zoning codes allow for a wide mix of housing density. To solve the housing crisis, we need be able to build dense apartment buildings where lots of families can live. But to preserve the character of our county, and to allow for economic mobility, we also need to build mid-size apartments, duplexes, townhomes, attached single family homes, and detached single family homes. With housing development, we also need to invest in urban density that allows for the safe and enjoyable walkability of our business districts. For example, downtown La Center is such a cute little spot to go have a coffee, take a walk, go to the park. They have prioritized families and kids with the school there. Compared to Battleground's business district which feels unsafe to walk from one business to a neighboring business because that area has prioritized vehicle traffic.

In addition to the zoning codes and incentive structures to prioritize housing density and walkability of our business districts, we also need significant investment in public transportation. Our current culture of "one car, one person" is not sustainable. Not only do cars make our communities unsafe, they pollute our air and our water, they also require huge amounts of land. We have to build roads, and we have to build parking areas. In fact, we build huge parking lots and garages all over that are designed for peak loading times, but outside of those peak times, they sit empty and unused. Our current car culture requires significant investment in infrastructure from the county. We could ease all of this burden by providing transportation hubs with both light rail and bus transit. Bus transit is the easiest to build and gives us the greatest flexibility. In addition to housing density, all new housing development should include the development of transit services that make it easier for folks to choose public transport over using a car.

We also need to protect our land use and our natural spaces. By building more dense communities, we reduce the number of acres of natural land that needs to be converted for housing space. We need to also be cautious to include generous green spaces in our housing developments. We know that tree coverage helps control excess heat, which reduces the consumer cost of heating and cooling, as well as cleaning our air and providing critical habitat. It's important that we preserve the unique natural habitat we have in Clark County. We all want to be able to continue to easily access hiking trails, forests, rivers, parks, etc.

Finally, it's important that we consult with the indigenous communities that have resided in what we now call Clark County for millennia before our county was formed. We need their input regarding land areas that may be culturally significant, and their generational knowledge of fishing and wildlife management, food forests, and overall land and water management can serve as the foundation for how we continue to steward this land for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Danielle Jokela
Clark County Resident